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WE BRING GOOD NEWS | DIOCESE OF OXFORD REPORTER IN BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND OXFORDSHIRE | OCTOBER 2000 | No 116

Thanks to women in farming

ARE WOMEN the unsung heroes of rural life? They grow half the food in the world yet own only two per cent of the land. In the United Kingdom 13% of full-time agricultural workers and nearly of half those working part-time are women. There are at least 150,000 farmers' wives many of whom work alongside their menfolk in addition to caring for their families.

In fact people are so unaware of the contribution of women to agriculture and to rural life that the National Farmers' Union is inviting churches to take part in World Rural Women's Day on Sunday, 15 October with a day of celebration to say thank you to women in agriculture in the United Kingdom.

The NFU is working in conjunction with the Women's Food and Farming Union (WFU) and the Arthur Rank Centre, the ecumenical chaplaincy at the heart of the Royal Show Ground at Stoneleigh. Included in the special prayers written by the Revd Gordon Gatward of the Centre is one for those women 'who struggle alone to rear a family and run a farm' and 'those with courage and foresight to adopt new ideas and techniques in the face of prejudice'. The NFU and WFU are also organising a series of women's forums across the country leading up to World Women's Day.

'The Church has an acute awareness of the central role of women in the community and particularly in more isolated areas of the country. I hope we can play a key part in raising awareness of their contribution by taking the celebration into the heart of our communities,' said Gordon Gatward.

The needs of women priests and lay ministers working in rural communities is also an area of growing concern. A conference on 'Women in Rural Ministry' will be held at Berinsfield near Wallingford on 18 October. The keynote speaker is Canon Eleanor Powell Advisor in Women's Ministry for the Gloucester Diocese and the Bishop of Buckingham will join the conference in the afternoon. *(Details in the DOORPost)*

World Rural Women's Day is being celebrated at a time when both men and women in farming are experiencing a time of severe hardship. To fuel their harvest sermons clergy have been sent a special briefing paper by the Revd Glyn Evans, the Oxford Diocesan Rural and Regional Officer. The paper makes depressing reading and reports declining incomes, farm closures and a shrinking agricultural infrastructure. There is particular concern for tenant farmers, ten per cent of whom are reported to be on anti-depressants.

• A special NFU Berks and Bucks and Oxon Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday, 15 October at Dorchester Abbey at 3pm. Proceeds from the collection and the sale of produce will go to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute.

'WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS AND SCATTER . . .' Photograph: Frank Blackwell

The day starts early for chicken farmer, Elisabeth Lakey of Bank Farm at Pishill. In addition to caring for her family and 600 Asa Brown hens, she is training for the priesthood on the Ordained Local Ministry course and hopes to be ordained deacon in autumn 2001.

TO MEET THIS AUTUMN'S CROP OF NEW DEACONS TURN TO PAGE 7

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the Doorpost Information PAGE

One page says it all

Courses, training, festivals, events

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Opinion

Tomorrow's Church – what will it be like?

When we dare to respond to God's call and journey with him, we begin to experience his grace and provision. **Chris Neal** the Diocesan Director of Evangelism looks at the calling of being a pilgrim people

ONE of the most frequently asked questions as I talk about building a Church for the 21st century is 'what will this Church look like?' This is a key question as people seek to discover what are the authentic marks, or core values, of a Church which is seeking to engage with society at large, and individuals in particular, in a rapidly changing culture. It was the question in the heart of Bishop Richard's Consultation Document, and must continue to be asked as we seek God's way forward. Whilst the question is open to complex and detailed answers one characteristic which must be present in all that we are, is that of learning to be a pilgrim people.

Hearing the call

Pilgrimage can for many be a disturbing word, because it speaks of a life of change and movement, and also suggests uncertainty and living with risk.This is, though, the life for which the community of faith is called. The biblical record is a constant reminder that our God calls us from our settled security into this life of vulnerability. Abraham had all the trappings of civilised life, and yet he found himself called to the life of a nomad. Similarly Moses found himself firstly a refugee in the land of Midian, and then, against all his better judgement, was thrust into a leadership role as he took the people of Israel from slavery into the wilderness and on towards the promised land.

These well known stories take us to the heart of the life of faith. It is as we dare to respond to God's call and journey with him, that we begin to experience his grace and provision. It is not in the security of the known, but in the insecurity of the unfamiliar that God often meets us and teaches us.

Seeing the model

Many of us would want to shrink from this calling. The known and inherited ways can seem very comfortable, attractive and safe, especially when living in an age where change seems unending and exhausting. But at the heart of our faith stands the person of Jesus Christ, and in him we discover the model of pilgrimage. At the very heart of God's eternal purposes we find the greatest journey of all, that of Jesus Christ – Jesus, who set aside his glory to journey as a human being through suffering and pain all the way to his death on a cross.

Throughout his life Jesus recognised that he was on a journey, and that only as he journeyed in obedience to the Father's will would the renewal of the whole of creation become a possibility. This pilgrimage meant living with risk and insecurity, being vulnerable and open, and ultimately bearing the pain of the cross, trusting and hoping in the Father's promise of resurrection.

Call to the impossible

If one mark of the emerging Church is to be that of pilgrimage, then it is in Jesus that we must discover our model, for we are called to be his body, and our calling is to make his way, life and truth known to this generation.

Such a calling and such a model could seem very heavy, indeed some of the first disciples of Jesus struggled to come to terms with his calling and wondered how such a life could be possible. However, if God calls us to the seemingly impossible, he also equips us to fulfil it.

Those who had seen the model of Jesus, and who had heard his call, and had felt overwhelmed and unsure, were the same as those who turned the world upside down. The pilgrim God, who calls us to pilgrimage, who has modelled it in Jesus, is the one who sent his pilgrim Spirit. On the day of Pentecost the first Christians found themselves blown before a mighty wind on a journey of adventure. In their pilgrimage and by the power of the Spirit they discovered no boundary or frontier could remain uncrossed, no challenge seemed too great, no risk too threatening. The early Church was a community on the move, vibrant with imagination and possibilities. They responded to the call of the pilgrim God, modelled their lives on Jesus, and allowed the power of God's Spirit constantly to renew them.

You can contact Chris Neal at: Thame Barns Centre, Church Road, Thame, Oxon OX9 3AJ. Tel: 01844 216097.

A hundred queue for an open-air confirmation

Queues are an unusual sight especially at a confirmation. Nearly 100 people dressed in white aged 12-80 waited in the sunshine in Wokingham's Cantley Park to be confirmed by the Bishop of Reading (pictured above)**. More than 1,500 people gathered for Sonning's Free the Spirit millennium celebrations in a sea of red balloons. Seven people were also baptised by immersion in a portable baptistery.**

News in brief

Pray against violence

Saturday 25 November has been designated an International Day of Prayer against Violence to Women. Churches of all denominations are invited to observe the day and/or to offer prayers on Sunday 26 November. For example St Andrew's Cippenham, Slough will hold an ecumenical service at 8pm on Thursday 23 November. Worship material for a service is available from the Diocesan Board of Social Responsibility. on 01865 208214.

Religious census in 2001

There will be question on religion in the national census taking place next year. Everyone will be asked 'What is your religion?' and will have the opportunity of ticking one of eight boxes beginning with 'None'. The ecumenical organisation Churches Together for Mission has been involved in drawing up these questions which are included for the first time. For more information contact the Revd Dr Philip Clements-Jewery, CIM, 35 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL.

Nun and Bishop talk about homelessness

On Wednesday 18 October Sister Gabriel Benedict is to contend with the Bishop of Oxford on the panel for an 'Any Questions' style discussion which is being organised by the Porch in aid of the new Steppin' Stone Centre project. As Chris Kitch she was homeless for many years and has written a book about her experiences. For details look in the DOORPost.

Fleet Street's new vicar

Canon David Meara, 53, an expert on monumental brasses, Pugin and religious controversies of the 19th century, will succeed Canon John Oates as the 'Vicar of Fleet Street' (St Bride's). Canon Meara is currently Rector of Buckingham and Rural Dean, and is studying for a doctorate at Kings College London. He is married to Rosemary, an art teacher, and they have four children.

Winning cemetery!

The Wolvercote Cemetery, winner of the 1999 Cemetery of the Year Awards for Cemeteries above ten acres, is a finalist this year along with Park Avenue in Sheffield and Thorpe Road Cemetery in Melton Mowbray. The results will be announced at the Annual Joint Conference of Burial and Cremation Authorities on 26 September.

Sight impaired people can now get a free audio version of The DOOR by contacting Graham Winterbourne on 01884 840285.

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News

Enthusiasm for Convention grows

ENTHUSIASM for the 2002 Oxford Diocesan Convention at High Wycombe is running so high that some deaneries and parishes offered their financial backing as soon as they read about it in The DOOR. Now all churches are being invited to pledge their support by sending one pound per member. The money will 'prime the pump' for the Convention and start a bursary fund to enable young people to attend.

Make this a priority

An attractive leaflet about the High Wycombe 2002 has just gone out to every parish. It includes a message from the Bishop of Oxford in which he recalls the 'huge success' of the Bognor Conference of 1995, the first to bring together clergy and lay people on equal terms. 'I am hoping and praying that under God, the 2002 convention will be even more of a blessing for our lives and our parishes than Bognor. So please do set your sights on early July 2002 and make this a priority in your diary,' Bishop Richard said. In addition to offering fellowship, well known speakers, workshops, seminars and different styles of worship, the convention will be a good opportunity for sharing good practice rising from our strategy for evangelisation, says the Bishop.

The grounds and buildings of Wycombe Abbey School will provide the focal point but many of the amenities of High Wycombe town centre will also be involved in the Convention which is expected to run from the evening of Thursday 5 July to Sunday morning on 8 July to make it easier for young people and those in employment to attend. It is hoped that at least 1,000 people will choose to be residential using a variety of accommodation from tents to hotels. Many more are expected to come for a day at a time.

Transformation theme?

Dr Alan Wilson, the Rector of Sonning and leader of the Convention planning committee, said it was vital that the project should be 'surrounded and supported by prayer'. He also asked for ideas and suggestions which would be fed into the planning of the event. 'Please discuss your ideas with others in your church, youth leaders, musicians and anyone interested. That way we can plan a convention that really will hit the spot,' he said.

'The possibilities for good are considerable. One of our aims is to provide a safe and enjoyable place for people to step out of their immediate context and explore the possibilities of what they could be doing with their lives. If there is a theme that is emerging it is tranformation,' said Dr Wilson.

DOUBLE CELEBRATION FOR PACT Parents and Children Together (PACT), an Oxford Diocesan charity, recently celebrated their move to new offices in Reading. At the same time they were presented with the prestigious Investors in People award. The Bishop of Oxford, President of PACT, is pictured cutting the tape; with him are: (left to right): Peter Teague (PACT Chairman), the Revd Hugh Ellis (Reading and Bradfield Deanery Association), Councillor Alf Woodcock (Mayor of Milton Keynes), Yvette Gayford (PACT Director), Councillor Bob Green (Mayor of Reading), and Councillor John Webb (Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead). **Photograph: Reading Chronicle**

Christianity at the Olympics

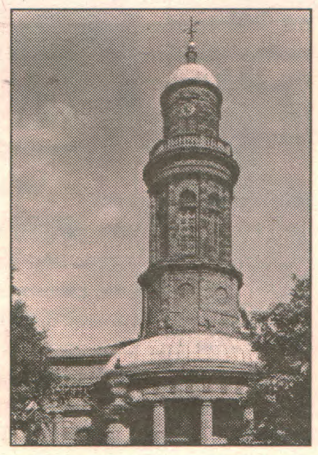
The Revd Andrew Wingfield Digby of the Oxford-based Christians in Sport is attending the Olympic Games as the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative. He is one of eight Anglicans in the voluntary chaplaincy team for the games. Christians in Sport have produced a special edition Jesus film for the Olympics, 'More Than Gold'. It has an 18-minute introduction with testimonies from Olympic medallists. There is also a video on why Olympians compete, and a 'More than Gold' CD, with music, interviews and spectacular sports action. Order from Christians in Sport, tel. 01865 311211.

Musical 'flying bishop' from Oxford

The Vice-Principal of an Oxford theological college is to be the new Provincial Episcopal Visitor, or 'flying bishop', for the Midlands and South West England. The Revd Andrew Burnham, 52, of St Stephen's House, Oxford will be consecrated bishop on St Andrew's Day, 30 November, succeeding Michael Houghton who died of a heart attack last year. After ordination training at St Stephen's and ten years in parish ministry, he returned there to teach liturgy and mission five years ago. Before his ordination he was a professional musician and conductor. The office of Provincial Episcopal Visitor was set up to provide pastoral oversight for churches unable to accept the ordination of women to the priesthood. Andrew Burnham, who will live in the Oxford area with his wife Cathy and their two children, believes strongly that women should have authority in the Church but not as priests.

Lottery brings good news to well known Banbury church

English Heritage and the Lottery Fund have agreed to give £970,500 from their Joint Grant Scheme for Churches and other Places of Worship to repair and restore St Mary's Church in Banbury town centre. The church is a Grade 1 listed building, designed by Samuel Pepys Cockerall in the 18th century. The Vicar of St Mary's, the Revd David Ineson, said that before the grant it had been a struggle to know how to keep the church going. With the money provided, the church, the biggest auditorium in the area, is going to be made of use to the community, he says.



The unusual St Mary's cupola is a landmark in Banbury

Westminster Abbey consecration

Canon Colin Fletcher will be consecrated Bishop of Dorchester by the Archbishop of Canterbury at 11am on 4 October at Westminster Abbey. An Abbey consecration is unusual for this Diocese. Our recent consecrations have been held at St Paul's or Southwark Cathedrals. **'God in the Life of Colin Fletcher' is on page 5**

Watching over Lark Rise church

The North Oxfordshire Police have joined with Neighbourhood and Country Watch schemes to help combat theft from churches in the county. The police will offer advice on security to churches, but the most important part of the scheme is the voluntary involvement of residents: a local coordinator is appointed for a church, who then alerts others to anything suspicious. One of the first churches to sign up to the scheme was St Mary the Virgin, Cottisford in the Shelswell Group, which has suffered thefts of furniture. The village was made famous by Flora Thompson who worshipped there as a child and gave it the name Fordlow in *Lark Rise to Candleford*.

Pray for the NHS

Please make St Luke's Day, 18 October a day of prayer for your NHS. Christians in Oxford hospitals started praying for problems like nurse recruitment and noticed the difference. The NHS Prayer Day aims to invite God to rebuild the NHS and to create a national prayer network throughout the NHS. The Revd Nick Fennemore of the John Radcliffe Hospital Chaplaincy has leaflets and details. Tel: 01865 221732.

Bob Marley in Christ Church

Bob Marley's 'One Love' opened the Diocesan annual service for Racial Justice Sunday on 3 September. The service aimed to include all denominations: there were hymns performed by a Gospel choir from Blackbird Leys, an Asian choir from Headington sang and prayers were led by Pastor Hubert Bruce of the New Testament Church of God. In his sermon Bishop Joe Aldred from the Birmingham Centre for Black and White Christian Partnership spoke of the seriousness of respecting all human beings as equals, regardless of colour or race.

Ex-UN Ambassador to preach at Abbey

Issues of religion and justice will be addressed in Dorchester Abbey on 29 October when Sir John Weston, former British UN Ambassador, will preach at a sung Eucharist. Other speakers will be Ebrahim Patel, a Muslim who is active in the United Religions Initiative, Megumi Hirota from Japan, a representative of the lay Buddhist movement, and the Revd Marcus Braybrooke, President of the World Congress of Faiths. The day costs £5 (lunch provided). Bookings to Canon John Crowe, Dorchester Rectory, Dorchester-on-Thames, OX10 7HZ.

behind the Door

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People & places

CE school Millennium garden opens with a Bishop and a song

CHILDREN at High Wycombe Church of England Combined School danced and sang with joy at the opening of their new Millennium Garden on 11 September. The Bishop of Buckingham, the Right Revd Michael Hill opened the garden, which has an amphitheatre, a patio with inlaid chess and hopscotch, as well as a pond. The children pictured above are holding up paintings of some of the birds and flowers they expect to see in the garden. Bishop Mike Hill unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion and is seen below with the Head Teacher, Simon Adams.

Photographs: Keith Ellis

Human rights and prisons in November

Prisons Week this year is 19 to 25 November. The theme is 'Spur one another on' *(Hebrews ch 10 v 24)*. You can obtain a pack which includes prayers and service suggestions from: Prisoners' Week, P0 Box 15014, London SW9 6ZN. Telephone/fax: 020 7735 7111.

Human rights organisation, Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) is preparing for this years Suffering Church Sunday on 12 November. This is a day when Christians all over the world join together to pray for the suffering church worldwide. A new-style pack for use by churches, home groups and individuals is being prepared for release in October. Contact CSW on 020 8942 8821 to get it.

SNIPPETS

Its thirsty work ringing bells, and so the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers produced 7000 bottles of Guild Millennium Beer called 'Ringers Delight'. It was brewed by Hook Norton Brewery and has been in hot demand ever since. It was delicious, but unfortunately, the bell ringers were so thirsty, it has all gone!

Cousins have been reunited through the DOOR. When Gladys Whitworth, aged 98, from High Wycombe opened her June DOOR she saw a photograph of her 91-year-old cousin Gordon Limmer from Burnham with whom she had lost touch. 'We spent a delightful afternoon,' writes Mrs Whitworth. 'We talked of times past and revived many memories. Mrs Whitworth's mother and Mr Limmer's mother were sisters who lived in Yarnton.

It is the end of ten years of fund raising to finance major restoration work on the 13th century church of St John the Baptist, Preston Bissett. As a thank you to the fund providers, those who have worked on the church and all the parish, a group millennium photograph was be taken outside the church to record the achievement. It was followed by a service of thanksgiving taken by the Bishop of Buckingham, with a reception afterwards.

Actor John Griffiths is performing a one man show of St John's Gospel, directed by Gareth Armstrong. The 90 minute show uses the beautiful and haunting Jacobean language of the Authorised Version of the New Testament gospel. It is being presented in St Mary's Church, Amersham on the 6 and 7 October. *The box office is 01494 862700.*

Scripture Union, whose headquarters are near Milton Keynes, has been recognised as an Investor in People. James Escott, Personnel Advisor commented, 'We have undertaken the work to achieve recognition because we believe that the Investor in People process will assist Scripture Union to be even more accountable in areas of learning and development. In turn, this will help us undertake the ministry to fulfil the twin aims of making God's Good News known to children, young people and their families and helping people meet God regularly through the Bible and prayer.

Alpha course gets on the buses

Alpha advertising took to the streets of Oxford on the back of 15 buses. Pictured with one of them is Chris Smith, the Alpha Regional Advisor, who is currently studying for ordination at Wycliffe Hall. See the DOORPost for major Alpha event on 5 October. **Photo: Jemimah Wright**

Pioneering Christian training programme offers thanks for the past and thoughts for the future

THE CHILTERN Christian Training Programme (CCTP) rounded off its 18 years of teaching and service to the local community with a service of celebration and thanksgiving attended by the Bishop of Buckingham. Also present were all directors, many students past and present, lecturers, helpers, friends and supporters. In his Address Bishop Mike encouraged to look back with thanksgiving in our hearts and to think of how we need to deliver training in a world with less and less time. How are we moving on to the land God has promised?

Raising the rafters

The rafters were well and truly raised as we joined together in our hymns of praise. We heard moving tributes from both students and staff who shared their memories of training and friendships. They were told with a poignancy which brought tears to eyes, and a humour which betrayed an enlightened understanding of the many needs of staff and students on a CCTP course – all companions on the faith-equipping journey. We heard too of the vision of the CCTP founders for ecumenical Christian training to equip ordinary Christian people in the work to which they were being called as members of congregations in the Chilterns area, and the necessity of learning the 'hows' as well as the 'whys'. And so grew training for every member ministry in all the churches.

Co-operation through diverse tradition

Supported by the Diocese of Oxford, in 1990 CCTP became the first educational local ecumenical project training programme in the country. Its patrons were the Bishop of Buckingham, the General Superintendent of the Baptist Union, the Chairman of the NW Methodist District, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Northampton and the Moderator of the Thames North URC Province. The expression heard at that time was: who would have thought even ten years earlier that so much cooperation could be achieved among such diverse traditions.

Widening horizons

CCTP has been in the vanguard of both Christian training and ecumenical partnerships and can be proud of the part it has played in growing the ministries of Reader (now Licensed Lay Minister), lay pastor and fledgling NSMs and OLMs as they dipped a toe into the water to see if they could cope with structured learning, as well as encouraging the faith of many adults just wanting to widen their horizons.

During the celebration service, those present were encouraged to share their reminiscences of the course and these were offered to God, together with our thanks for the fellowship and learning which had been shared. Our evening ended with a wonderful buffet (thank you WI members) and much chatting as friends recognised one another and celebrated the life of CCTP through their memories of their studies.

CCTP you will be missed, but other forms of learning will take your place – thank you for all you have given us.

Kay Watters

Kay writes on behalf of the management team of CCTP before its closure.

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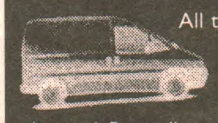
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Thurs 19th Oct, 5pm, Examination Schools, Oxford
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For further details about the Tyndale Society and events please contact Charlotte Dewhurst, Secretary, Tyndale Society, Hertford College, Oxford, OX1 3BW, Phone/Fax: (01865) 848746 *(answer phone during office hours)*

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Interview...

God in the life of Colin Fletcher

THINK OF THE ANGELS advised one friend when Colin Fletcher was considering ordination. He did and became a priest in 1976. Since then he he has travelled far and after his consecration as Bishop of Dorchester at Westminster Abbey on October 4, he will bring back to Oxfordshire an unusual breadth of experience. It is drawn not only from from his years as a parish priest and as a lecturer at Wycliffe Hall but also from journeys around the world with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

IN MY LATE TEENS on a Scripture Union camp, someone explained to me that Jesus could be a friend. That was new. I'd never understood it like that. It was Christianity becoming real and at a greater depth than ever before. In a sense mine was a sudden conversion but the longer I go on, the more I see it as a very important point in a much longer story that continues still.

I was born in Mill Hill in North London. My father and mother were both churchwardens at different times. I never doubted that there was a God but my faith was fairly private. We went to church and I said my prayers but we didn't have family Bible reading times or anything like that.

My father was a barrister and I was interested in his work. But history was my great love and at Trinity College, Oxford, I read history and economics. I was also heavily involved in the the Oxford InterCollegiate Christian Union (OICCU) as well as college chapel and the life of St Ebbe's Church. Within that circle becoming a clergyman was an acceptable thing to do. So I had to sort out if ordination training was what God wanted me to do or whether it was a convenient way of keeping with my peer group.

It was Easter time in my final year that I decided, through prayer and conversations with friends, that God was calling me to ordination. I remember one friend said whatever that decision is, make sure you are thinking of the angels.

My first curacy was four years in Shipley, in suburban Bradford. In addition to normal curacy work, I did a huge amount of youth work. After that I hadn't got any great game plan to go into theological teaching. But training is something I have always been interested in. I loved my own time at Wycliffe Hall and when the Principal said they needed an extra member of staff with recent parish experience, I decided to accept his offer. I taught ethics at the practical end – issues like abortion, euthanasia, just war theory, divorce and remarriage. It was a joint job with one third of the time spent at St Andrew's Church, North Oxford. There was virtually no teenage youth work at St Andrew's so we founded 'SAYGO' which is still going more than 20 years on. At the first meeting we had one member and six leaders but it grew to the 60 or 70 mark.

Next I did eight and a half years at Holy Trinity, Margate. It was a very exciting period. We would see up to 500 people in church on a Sunday and by the time we left, I was working with a curate, a licensed layworker, a musician and a pastoral team and we were building another church which has since become an independent parish. It was a strange area which feels like a bit of the north tacked onto the south east of England. A lot of people see it as just a nice seaside town and it is but it has huge problems of deprivation. It was the dumping ground for people coming out of psychiatric hospitals and in my own parish we had the largest council housing estate in Margate. I did a lot of work with the Children's Society there as well as getting Church Urban funding for a youth community worker.

World perspective

It came as a total shock when I was invited to apply to be chaplain to the Archbishop. I wasn't looking to move at that stage. We were two thirds of the way through a church building project and it was a very creative time. Being a vicar you have an enormous amount of freedom to work your job in the way you want to and to live with your mistakes. As chaplain your role is to support the Archbishop and to keep him on the road.

The perspective you get on the world church when you travel with the Archbishop is very broad, very privileged and very rushed. It was about meeting Christians who were very different from me, ethnically, culturally, historically. You would go into, say, a Syrian Orthodox church and discover they are using a liturgy that has been unchanged for centuries and yet there would be that rapport that you always get when Christians meet Christians. It also involved meeting people like Desmund Tutu and discoving that behind all the verve that you see on television, there is a man with an extremely deep prayer life.

The world wide perspective also makes you immensely proud to be a Christian and an Anglican. In South Africa Anglicans were crucial to the protests against apartheid. In this country we tend to separate mission from evangelism and to say social concern belongs to one group of Christians and evangelism to another but Africa challenges our pigeon hole attitudes and integrates the two. In Africa the community worships. The community looks after itself. The community faces famine.

On the other hand wherever you look in the world sin is a reality. We went to Rwanda soon after the genocide. I remember how one compound, which included the church and the school, had become a killing field and the only way to get across it was to walk through the skeletons. This in one of the most heavily Christianised parts of Africa and left me with an awful lot of questions about how thin is the veneer of Christianity in any country. That has produced in me a greater humility and a greater thankfulness for the kind of stability we do enjoy in this country.

I liked what I saw

When I came with the Archbishop on his visit to the Diocese of Oxford last year I liked what I saw. The fact that authority is really designated to the area bishops is also very attractive. Parts of this area are already very familiar to us. It is a part of the world that we love.

One of the things that most appeals to me about the Church of England is that we are committed to all the people who live in this country. So between now and Christmas I hope to spend a day or two in each of the deaneries in Oxfordshire meeting not only clergy and congregations but people in the wider community.

There is a spiritual restlessness around and people are even more aware than they were 20 years ago of the spiritual side of our personalities. But whereas once they would have thought 'I will therefore go to church', we are now in a more complex world where people try all sorts of routes to meet this cry of spiritual need.

The Gospel is as central to human existence as it has ever been and our job is the age old one of finding ways of bringing it to this generation. That doesn't mean changing it or watering it down but it does mean working hard to find ways of communicating it so that people can understand and respond to it. We need to offer the exciting wholeness of Christ but how we offer it in Henley may well be different from how it is offered in Witney or in one of our villages. Yet it needs to be the same Gospel that brings new life throughout the world whether in Syria, Rwanda or Los Angeles. At its heart lies not a system or ideology but a person – Jesus Christ himself – the gracious gift of God who is still transforming millions of people's lives today, including mine.

Photograph by **Frank Blackwell**
Interview by **Christine Zwart**

About Canon Colin Fletcher OBE

Colin Fletcher was born in 1951. He was brought up in North London and educated at Marlborough, Trinity College, Oxford and Wycliffe Hall. He was ordained priest in 1976 and served as Curate at St Peter's Shipley (1976–9) before becoming Tutor at Wycliffe Hall and Hon Curate at St Andrew's North Oxford (1979-84). Next he became Vicar of Holy Trinity, Margate (1984-93) and from 1988, Rural Dean of Thanet. In 1993 Canon Fletcher became Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury. He was awarded the OBE for services to the Millennium celebrations. He is married to Sarah and they have three children Jonathan (18), Pippa (16), Kate (14) .

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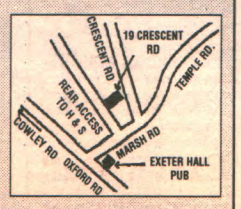

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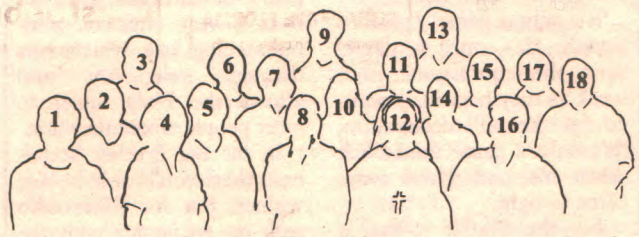
Ordinations

Meet our new deacons

Two nuns, a chemist and a salesman are among the 19 men and women being ordained deacons at Christ Church Cathedral on 30 September and 1 October. Please pray for them and for those who are being ordained priests on the same day (see list in Sept DOOR page 4).



1. Pamela Smith
I will be serving my title in the Ironstone Benefice, north west of Banbury. I am a widow with two adult children: Bryn, who lives in Uppsala to be with his Swedish fiancée Virve, and Nikki who sings in the choir at St Mary's at Witney, is married to Paul and has an 18 month old daughter Abigail. Before moving to Banbury I worked for Age Concern Oxford.

2. Rose Williams
Born and brought up in Suffolk, I am an experienced vicarage dweller being the daughter and now wife of a clergyman. (I never learn!) We have three grown up children, Hazel, Tim and Dawn. I have been a licensed lay minister since 1984 and will be staying on in the Walton Team, Aylesbury to serve as an NSM. I enjoy gardening, eating out, eating in, films, guinea pigs and writing children's material for Scripture Union.

3. Andrew Mackie
With his wife Christine, Andrew Mackie has lived in Purley on Thames for almost 20 years. Andrew will be ordained local minister at St Mary's Purley. His ministry will initially be with young people, of whom their children Linda (16) and David (14) have given him some useful experience. Andrew will continue to try to use fruitfully the time spent commuting to his job as resource manager for a software company in London.

4. Hazel Scarr
Brought up first in the churches of the East End I later moved to North London and in 1982 to rural North Oxfordshire. Although both amazed and alarmed when God called, he gently but firmly steered me in His chosen direction. While continuing part time work I look forward to the challenge ahead, supported by God's strength and the love, prayers and encouragement of my husband John and our daughters Deborah and Karen and their families.

5. Joan Arthur
Happily married to Joe for 35 years, we have two children: Trevor married to Jo, living in Chester, and Hazel, living with her partner, Simon in Beaconsfield. A qualified chemist, I retain a keen interest in science and the natural world. I'm also passionate about F1 motor racing! Privileged to train with SAOMC, I look forward to serving at St James, and gaining wider experience with SS Mary and George, in the High Wycombe Team.

6. Margaret Dimmick
Margaret will be licensed as OLM to Caversham Park Ecumenical Partnership and also training at St Luke's with St Bartholomew's Reading. A licensed lay minister, she was a Mayoress of Reading and has served on the Deanery Synod. She was chairman of Churches Together in Reading and is a trustee of the Women's Centre. Formerly a teacher, Margaret now works in administration for Oxfam. She is supported by husband Robert and children Juliet and Michael.

7. Hugh Warwick
Hugh Warwick has just turned 61, and worked for BBC Radio for nearly 30 years, most of them as a music producer with Radio 3. He was born in the Diocese, and now lives in Rotherfield Peppard, where he will serve his title. His wife, Auriel, a New Zealander, is a music therapist, specialising in autism. They have no children, just a pair of demanding Burmese cats who seem intent on filling the role!

8. Rosemary Payne
Michael and I are looking forward to our new life at St Paul with St Mary Wooburn, Bucks where I will be serving my title. Our children Adrian and Jennifer live away from home so will be less involved but they are great advocates of the new direction in my life. God often surprises me so I will refrain from speculating about the path of my future ministry because he may have other ideas!

9. John Quick
After completing a geography degree and teacher training I worked in primary and middle schools, latterly as a deputy head teacher, before taking early retirement. My wife Dee teaches home economics, and we have a son and a daughter both at university. I will be serving as an OLM in the parish of Clewer St Stephen and St Agnes (new Windsor Team Ministry) combined with my current employment as a bookseller.

10. Tess Ward
I am married to Pete and we have two children, Eleanor, 7 and Callum, 5. We will be moving to Cold Ash where I will serve my title with the Hermitage Team.

11. Lyn Comerford
I have four children, two of whom still live at home with myself, my mother and my cat. I am an OLM based at the Emmanuel Church Centre, Woodley, which was planted from St John the Evangelist ten years ago. I also work full time for the Boeing company as an office administrator and enjoy the theatre and my garden when time permits.

12. Sister Anne CSJB
I look forward to working in Blackbird Leys. My Presbyterian upbringing and time in East London worshipping in a Methodist church, were good preparation. Life skills learned through work in the chemical industry, marriage and two sons, and ministry as a licensed lay minister will also be useful. I have been part of the Community of St John Baptist since 1994, working as a parish sister (in the Windsor Team) and I am grateful for the sisters' generosity of spirit in allowing me to train for the ordained ministry.

13. John F. Jackson
John, along with his wife Judy and two children Christopher and Kate, now resides in Kidlington where he will be stipendary curate after ordination. John and his family have, until recently, lived in Oxford, where he has been pursuing his DPhil at Worcester College. In a former life, John was a law professor in Columbus, Ohio before moving to England.

14. Prue Dufour
Married to David, after training as a nurse she has worked for many years in developing hospices. She is now a trustee of the Acorn Christian Foundation and is called upon to speak on hospice matters internationally. She will train as MSE at Old Windsor in association with her role as Director of St Columba's Fellowship, a charity that seeks to encourage Christians in palliative care.

15. Saskia Barnden
I am resident assistant sixth form tutor, teacher and chaplain Richard Warden's curate-to-be at Wycombe Abbey School. My husband, John, heads the Computer Science Department at Birmingham University; we have one daughter, Marina, just embarking on her second year of reading English at Balliol. I am completely delighted to be serving my title in school chaplaincy.

16. Angela Linton
A farmer's daughter born and brought up in Kent I moved to Lancashire on marriage to Barry 30 years ago where our two daughters Jessica and Erica were born. We have now lived in South Oxfordshire for 17 years. Working initially for the Ministry of Agriculture and subsequently at Goring Post Office until early 'retirement' last year I am now looking forward to working in the Langtree Team Ministry.

17. Suzanne Knight
I will serve as an OLM in my home parish. I am a local person in every sense of the word having lived in Reading all my life. I have four children, Darron, Tina, Gavin and Lucy. I have been working as a local community worker for 20 years. My ministry has always been and will continue to be in the community. My heart is to help the church and community to relate and to become more relevant.

18. Robert Langton
Presently retreat house warden in Windsor, alongside the Community of St John Baptist, having previously served in the healing ministry at Crowhurst. I managed a retail business in Hampshire, after a career in sales, working in several different industries. I have five grown up sons, whose company I greatly enjoy, and before they appeared was a missionary in Kenya. I am very excited to be joining All Saints Maidenhead, were I will serve my curacy.

Sister Patricia Ann CSMV
(unable to attend for the photograph)
It is 20 years since I made my profession within the Community of St Mary the Virgin at Wantage. Before joining the Community I was a bank clerk in Cheshire and this experience has proved invaluable during my life in commu-

nity. Latterly I worked for over ten years within two local benefices. After ordination I look forward to serving with CSMV and with the Parish of St Peter's, Didcot.

How about you? If you have a sense of vocation to lay or ordained ministry contact your deanary vocations advisor. There is a list in the Diocesan Handbook or for the most up to date version ring Hilary Unwin, convenor of the Vocations Network on 01494 725228.

Comment

When the game is up

FROM THE EDITOR

I AM having withdrawal symptoms. 'Big Brother' addicts will know what I mean. There will be no more late night viewing of the Channel 4 programme which the Bishop of Liverpool called a 'human zoo' because the game is over. Craig, the likeable Scouse, narrowly beat Anna the ex-novice nun. After nine weeks he emerged from the curious house in Bow £70,000 the richer after the other contestants, assisted by the viewers, voted one another out.

You are right to tut tut. But there is worse to come. I hissed in true pantomime style when Nick cheated his way to the heart of the household and I even rang up to vote out a contestant I particularly disliked. You can't stoop lower than that.

'It's only a game' I said to myself. 'It's only a game' sang the contestants each week as they nervously waited for the poll declaration. 'It's only a game' said Nick when his underhand ways came to light.

But the trouble is that it wasn't. It was a dreadful microcosm of what happens when reality and unreality, love and betrayal, trust and duplicity become horribly mixed up and the game players turn into the game victims. In short it was life in the raw without God. Next year the cameras will focus on another group of people when David Frost presents an Alpha course on television. Twelve participants will talk about their changing attitudes to Christianity as they go through a course in Christian basics.

A Millennium Alpha initiative called 'Ask the nation to supper' will be launched this month at nine regional centres. One of them is Oxford and at the Apollo Theatre on 5 October, Alpha national co-ordinator Nicky Gumbel will talk about Alpha and introduce some local people whose lives have been touched by it.

There is bound to be an Alpha course near you. Tell your neighbours and friends or think about going on it yourself. It is not the only course in Christian basics but it is a very effective, non-threatening one which cuts through religiosity and allows the Holy Spirit to meet people where they are.

In the Big Brother household there could only be one winner. But for those who seek an encounter with the living God through Alpha or in any other way, there can be no losers. The prize is eternal life and the best possible starting point for the search is the realisation that the game is well and truly up.

Christine Zwart

Diocesan appointments

The Revd Vivien Brooks, Priest in charge of Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green also to be Berkshire Anglican Ecumenical Officer; **The Revd Derek Chedzey**, Team Vicar in the High Wycombe Team Ministry to be Tiverton Deanery Training Officer and Associate Minister in the Exe Valley Team Ministry, Exeter Diocese; **the Revd Mark Ewbank**, Priest in charge of St Mary's, Famona, Bulawayo to be Assistant Curate Chalfont St Peter; **the Revd Ian Mountford**, Assistant Curate Christ Church, Chilwell, Nottingham, Southwell Diocese to be Team Vicar, Thame Valley Team Ministry; **the Revd Trevor Nicholson**, Chaplain Queen Anne's School, Caversham is retiring; **the Revd Timothy Thornton**, Vicar of Chadlington & Spelsbury w Ascott-under-Wychwood is retiring; **the Revd Canon Brian Shenton** to resign as Priest in charge Reading St Matthew but to continue as Vicar of Reading St Mary with St Laurence; **the Revd Rebekah Little** NSM Bath Tiverton on Avon, Bath and Wells Diocese, has permission to officiate.

Opening the Book of Life?

The Revd Dr Lee Rayfield reflects on some aspects of progress in human genetics

ON MONDAY 26 June 2000 a milestone in human achievement was announced to the world: the human genetic code had been sequenced. Scientists and politicians together spoke of a moment in history rivalling the invention of the wheel or landing on the moon. 'The Book of Life now lies open', declared the headline writers, 'A milestone in man's knowledge of himself – for good or evil.'

In fact what the Human Genome Project has provided to date is more information than knowledge. Scientists have listed the three billion molecules that make up an individual's genetic blueprint but they have only limited understanding of where the 38,000 – 115,000 genes might lie and even less idea of what they might control. It is akin to having a detailed diagram of a car but being unsure which lines relate to the engine, which to the braking system and which are only smudges! Determining where the genes are, and which biological processes they control, will take much longer. It will take decades to convert all the information into real knowledge.

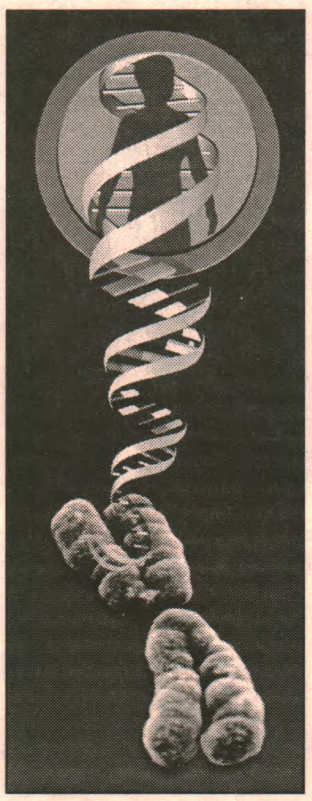
Tower of Babel?

So how are Christians to regard this technological breakthrough? Is it the ground floor of a modern day 'Tower of Babel' or a part of loving God with all our mind? Is it the faithful cultivation of God's creation or the eating of another forbidden fruit?

Few would consider understanding the basis of human life at a molecular level as an act of disobedience to God. But knowledge begets responsibility and the right use of what we have discovered.

Society has already benefited greatly from the advances in human molecular genetics made in the last 20 years. In the realm of the law, genetic 'fingerprinting' has proved a powerful technique in the detection and prosecution of crime. Microscopic samples of body fluid or tissue can be used not only to track down the guilty but to vindicate the innocent.

Such is the potential for good. But there is immense potential for misuse and abuse of this knowledge 'through ignorance, weakness or our own deliberate fault'. Knowledge of a person's genetic makeup, and the potential to alter it, opens a whole series of ethical and practical dilemmas.



Picture courtesy of the US Department of Energy

Take, for example, life or health insurance. Insurance companies assess risks by asking about lifestyles and medical histories. We now know that there are associations between certain genes and diseases. If companies were allowed access to a detailed genetic profile they may either refuse insurance or charge exorbitant premiums. On the other hand, if insurance companies were denied access they could be disadvantaged. A person discovering they were at high risk of a chronic or terminal disease through an analysis of their DNA might exploit that knowledge when taking out a policy.

Knowledge of our genetic profile is not neutral information as the above examples show. It can easily become a means of exclusion and discrimination. Who has access to genetic information and who controls it pose major questions. We can also see how people could feel they are prisoners of their genetic constitution in a deterministic and fatalistic way.

While genetic therapy for disease might acceptable, what many fear is that our knowledge might be taken further and be used for eugenics, the genetic 'improvement' of humanity. Aldous Huxley's 'Brave New World' was a nightmarish vision of human beings created according to defined genetic criteria. Many fear that the Human Genome Project has brought it a step closer. Fortunately wholesale Huxleyan eugenics is likely to remain fiction for the foreseeable future, but selection in favour of some genes and against others is not so far from being science fact. Eugenic manipulation is not just the preserve of far right and far left extremists. Just ask your neighbours whether they would choose to help their children by making them brighter, more artistic or athletic through giving them a certain gene at the time of conception. This moves us into the realm of designer babies.

Quest for eternal life

A narrow quest for eternal life is very much alive in Western culture and understanding why cells age, genetically speaking, has inevitably become a popular area of research. If the Human Genome Project were to give clues for holding back the biological clock the ramifications would be enormous.

The project to sequence human DNA is very much an enterprise of Western technological culture, with all its strengths and weaknesses. The project began with a key note of cooperation between publicly funded laboratories across the Atlantic for the common good. It changed into a bitterly contested race against a privately funded American Corporation. The patenting of human genes has mirrored a Gold Rush.

A critical friendship

Scientists are well aware of the ethical dilemmas their research is raising. Christians have a vital role to play in being 'critical friends' to science and technology. There are many aspects of the Human Genome Project which we can affirm and encourage as consistent with Christian values and principles. Responsible and carefully controlled risks may be justified and supported. Compassion and the responsibility to alleviate suffering provide impetus to many potential medical uses of genetic understanding. But they need to be held in tension with other criteria.

We are to be alive to wider issues of the common good, including our responsibilities to less developed nations and to generations yet unborn. We are to remind our society that life is a gift not a commodity, and that we are infinitely more than the sum of our DNA. We have to call for appropriate humility and help our culture recognise the distinction between knowledge and wisdom.

The writer of Psalm 139 declared, 'I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made'. May God give us grace to hold together those strands of praise, wonder and reverent fear as we discover more about how we are made.

The Revd Dr Lee Rayfield is Priest in Charge of St Peter's with St Mark's Hospital Church, Furze Platt, Maidenhead and Area Dean of Maidenhead Deanery. Before ordination he was a Lecturer in Immunology at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital Medical and Dental Schools and is a member of the Society of Ordained Scientists.

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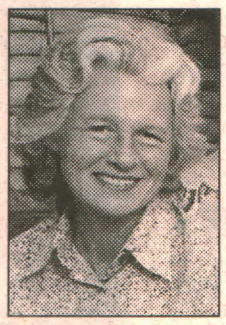
Analysis

Vatican greenhouse effect



by Jennifer Henderson

I READ WITH dismay the latest statement from the Vatican, Declaration Dominus Jesus, that the Church of England and all other Protestant churches are not proper churches because they suffer from defects. It seems to me that Cardinal Ratzinger is intent on wiping out years of ecumenical progress at a stroke. What makes this pronouncement even harder to swallow is that it has been made in the name of Jesus whose words and actions taught us above all else not to discriminate against anyone.

Wasted effort?

My first thought was that all the efforts which have been made to gather Christians of different denominations into one body, might just as well not have taken place. What is the point, I wondered, of having joint services in shared buildings and in forming organisations such as Churches Together if, at the end of it all, we are told categorically by the Roman Catholic hierarchy that anything other than the Church of Rome does not embody the truth?

But then, what's new? Sadly, since the second Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC2), it has been evident that the Vatican has placed a glass ceiling over all ecumenical endeavour with the express intention of preventing any effective development beyond mere dialogue in inter-faith relations of every kid. Nothing may actually be changed.

Not the story's end

But must this be the end of the story? After all, a glass ceiling can cover a greenhouse in which life is able to flourish even more prolifically than on the outside. I believe that this is exactly what has happened among the grass roots of the laity. Because of our local ecumenical activity I have met several Roman Catholics whom i would have never otherwise have known, and who have become some of my dearest friends. As a result, the very thing that the Vatican is apparently so anxious to guard against - namely, the breaking down of all religious boundaries - has rooted and blossomed and continues to bear the fruit of the Spirit of abundance.

Jennifer Henderson is co-author of *God Has No Favourites*, with Anne Primavesi, a Roman Catholic theologian. More recently, she is the author of *Against All Odds*, the story of a Jewish friend who escaped Nazi persecution in Belgium during the war.

Letters to the editor

More on lesson reading, Christingle and the Book of Common Worship

I read the letter from Gerry Hanson in the September DOOR on the subject of lesson reading with interest as it was published only a week or two after we, in the United Benefice of Little Compton, had run an evening course on 'Reading in Church'. Over the last few years similar courses have been held both at Benefice and Deanery level and they have, I am sure, contributed to the high standard of lay participation in the services that are held in our part of the Diocese. I agree that it is our duty as Christians to achieve the highest standards that we can in our public worship, but I would not want Gerry Hanson to retain the impression that the 'mediocre standards' that he seems to have encountered elsewhere apply throughout the Oxford Diocese.

Bob Ford
Churchwarden, Little Compton

I would like to respond to Gerry Hanson's call for a debate into the standard of lesson readers at the lectern. We should be careful of limiting any aspect of worship to those judged acceptable by an elite. Mr Hanson is perhaps fortunate to attend a church with sufficient willing candidates to warrant selection by ability. Other churches - particularly in the more rural areas - would be grateful if more people came forward to extend the rotational cycle of readers. We should remember that the Word of God was originally promulgated by a carpenter, some fishermen and others of lowly social and educational status. Admittedly there is a precedent for the inclusion of tax collectors, but given the clarity of English exemplified by the income tax self-assessment instruction book, perhaps the professional class should look to the mote in its own eye before deciding that the Word should really be promulgated by those with degrees and suitably crisp vowels. If we exclude people from promoting the word of God in church, how can we expect them to develop the confidence to be a true Christian by promoting it outside that ecclesiastical comfort zone? While I would agree that churches should offer training in an effort to enlarge the rota, Mr Hanson's plea sounds rather like a call to perpetuate the view of the CofE as the Conservative Party at prayer.

Philip Challen
Langley

In reply to Gerry Hanson, 'a mediocre standard of lesson reading' is one of the things about which 'your best friends won't tell you'. But it is one of the concerncs of RADIUS - The Religious Drama Society of Great Britain. The Society is at present mounting a pilot scheme of workshop sessions 'Effective Delivery of Bible Reading in Worship'. Tuition would be offered preferably on the spot in local churches. It is not primarily a 'course in speech', but a 'application of existing skills - with advice and new thought'. Parishes interested should write to the Secretary, RADIUS, Christ Church & Upton Chapel, 1A Kennington Road, London SE1 7QP.

Kathleen M Hall
Oxford

In response to Gerry Hanson's letter regarding lesson reading in church, I would like to advise him and your other readers that his concern is shared within the Chipping Norton Deanery. In response to this concern, the Deanery Training Group has put on reading practice training sessions as part of its programme on several occasions.We believe that practical training sessions of this type are important in raising standards within our churches. To this end we have also organised similar sessions for lay people as they arrive in church, use of music in worship, being a member of the deanery synod etc.The response to the above sessions indicates that there is a general desire to raise standards, and that people welcome the opportunity to practice and improve.

Ian Henderson
Chipping Norton

A highlight of our Pilgrimage Walk in the Holy Land this summer, will be the blessing and lighting of a Christingle Candle in Bethlehem. This candle will be used at our Festival Service in Salisbury Cathedral and its light will then be passed on through countless Christingle Services throughout the country. The light of Christ as expressed through the love and expert help of The Children's Society reaches thousands of children and young people every year. In our Diocese we have two projects which support children and families experiencing difficulties at the Banbury Family Centre and the Milton Keynes Family Support Project. At Witney the Western Corner Project provides a service for children and young people with learning difficulties.

The Christingle Celebrations are enormously important to The Children's Society as they provide a visible candle light link between those in darkness and those with light to share. The monies collected and brought to the service, go to support our projects in England and Wales, which help to improve the quality of many childrenís lives. If your parish already helps us in this way, many thanks, you are vital to our on-going commitment to children in need. If you would like to consider holding a Christingle Celebration for the first time, please do get in touch with your local Area Fundraising Manager, we will be delighted to help you and your congregation to enjoy sharing the light of Jesus in this very special way.

Veronica Beaumont

In August 1996 Gallup carried out a poll for the Protestant Reformation Society. This found that of regular church goers, 59% of the laity wanted the Book of Common Prayer for the main service on Sunday, rather than the ASB. The survey also showed, perhaps even more suprisingly, that of regular church attenders, 43% of the laity would like Matins as the main Sunday service. It was as clear then as it is now that pressure to move congregations away from the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP), and now, from any traditional language service, comes mainly from the bishops, some clergy and those with a particular interest such as liturgists and publishers, not from lay churchgoers.

Parochial Church Councils, elected by the congregations, have the power to decide, with the incumbent, which form of service should be used in parish churches. With *Common Worship* destined to replace the *Alternative Service Book* (ASB) and with such a high proportion of chuchgoers apparently preferring the BCP, it would seem timely for the church to take the opportunity to return to the BCP. It would be unfortunate if the BCP and other liturgies in traditional language were abandoned under the duress of the clergy. If this happens there will be yet another sudden decline in attendance such as churches suffered in the early 1980s after the introduction of ASB Rite A.

David A V Dendy
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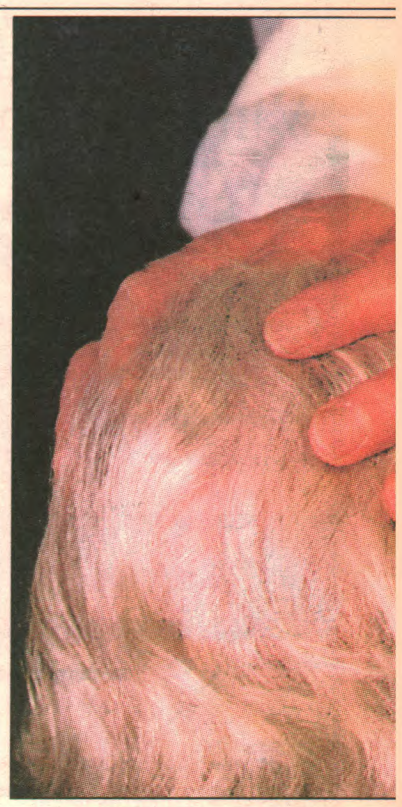
Healing is not an optional extra for churches says the Diocesan Healing Advisor, Hugh Kent. The Christian ministry of healing and the work of the medical professions can complement each other, he says. The Church's new report, *A Time to Heal* invites parishes to review their healing ministry. The purpose of this feature is to provide insights and information for that review and to serve as a reminder that God always answers our prayers for healing even if it is in unexpected ways



A time fo

GO PREACH THE GOSPEL AND HEAL THE SICK

Hugh Kent, Diocesan Advisor for Healing, looks at an important new report

WITH SO MUCH up for discussion in Church circles at the moment, why should every parish take time to read the new *Time to Heal* report, and review their practice in the area of Christian healing?

Jesus told his disciples to go preach the Gospel and heal the sick, which must be taken in its widest context. Hans Kung said 'God's Kingdom is creation healed' and many of us in the churches will already be working for social healing, creation healing and relationship healing. Surely this emphasizes the need for congregations to include people who reach out to the physically, emotionally and spiritually sick?

Jesus met people at the point of their need in his day, and today many are in great need both physically and mentally. The incarnation of our Lord teaches us that our bodies and our human life are important and come under God's authority. We in the churches cannot hand all the responsibility over to scientific medicine much as we rejoice in the devotion and progress made in the medical professions.

God made our whole being, therefore he has a place in our healing. Sometimes this is to recovery and life; sometimes it is to peace of mind and death. We once had the privilege of praying with a lady in the advanced stages of chest cancer. She had been brought as a 'last resort'. Asked what she wanted God to do she said that the pain was unbearable, like 'two burning coals in her back'. This was brought to the Lord in prayer, and hands laid on her. She witnessed that the pain went – never to reappear. She died five months later, not in agony but able to pray with her family and to prepare them for her death.

We in our local situation frequently have great needs thrust upon us. In this last week we have shared with a woman who feels at the end of her tether with her verbally abusive husband. There is a member of a congregation with cancer of the liver. There was the lady whose dementia-suffering husband had just died. Do we say 'I'll keep you in my prayers', or do we as a Christian body ask Christ how we should pray for them and offer prayer as a therapy alongside the professional help they may be receiving from other sources? If we don't do the latter are we not saying 'God is not interested'?

St Luke was a doctor. On his feast day, 18 October, pray for all who work for healing.

A Christian doctor was once asked in an interview, 'Doesn't most Christian healing qualify under the heading 'psychosomatic disease'? His reply was that people under that heading were really ill and not 'faking it'. He implied that many more afflictions were the result of emotional turmoil and external factors than had been previously acknowledged.

We see this in the Scriptures when Jesus said to the paralysed man 'Go and sin no more'. Jesus was looking beyond the presenting symptoms and releasing the man from the underlying cause.

Those in the churches who are called to the costly ministry of prayer for the sick can ask for the Holy Spirit's help in seeing behind the presenting symptoms and so bring into the open the underlying cause of the disease. As the cause is acknowledged the light of Christ can shine on it. When it is hidden, unacknowledged, the fear and desperation caused can be a fruitful playground for the forces of darkness. It is an area which scientific medicine cannot always treat and has brought into being many alternative therapies.

So there is no choice for the Church. It is not a case of either we have a healing ministry or we just support the work of the medical professionals. It is both. We are people who acknowledge that God has made each individual and so knows the inner context of each disease. We are also those who acknowledge that God has given special insights, ability and training to advance medical science and we can support that work. I believe prayer will advance healing even if it is, as with the lady with cancer, a healing in the process of dying. If we ask in his name his will will be done.

A Time to Heal brings up to date the 1958 report to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. If we think of the advances in medicine since then, is it not time to acknowledge the advances in our understanding of the local Christian healing ministry? We may need to assess our commitment to that ministry in our local church, and to dedicate ourselves to good practice in our endeavours. This new report should help us to do this.

A Time to Heal: A contribution towards the Ministry of Healing is published by Church House Publishing (£9.95) A handbook to the report *The Development of Good Practice in the Healing Ministry* costs £2.95. You can buy both at Church House Bookshop. Tel: 020 7898 1304.

The Oxford Healthy Living Centre

Caring for the whole person and the whole community irrespective of age, class or ethnic background is the Christian ethos behind the new Oxford Healthy Living Centre *(logo above)*. The Centre aims to bring together a range of complementary therapies counselling and support services. Among the patrons is the Bishop of Oxford.

Research showed that there was a great need for such a centre in the Cowley area of Oxford where stage one of the project is up and running in attractive premises above the Temple Cowley United Reformed Church. Already in place are the Oxford Christian Insititute for Counselling, a marriage support service and some complementary therapies.

Work on this imaginative project began in the early 1990's and drew on the experience of a smilar centre at St Marylebone Parish Church in London. When complete The Oxford Healthy Living Centre will be housed in the adjoining church hall. It will offer not only professional counselling and complementary therapies such as homeopathy, osteopathy and acupuncture but also an interdenominational chapel and a whole food restaurant.

Over £1m is needed to complete the project but the immediate concern of its development manager, URC minister the Revd Betsy Gray-King, is to raise £50,000 to keep open stage one. Volunteers are also needed for the reception area.

If you can help in any way or would like to visit the Centre ring 01865 749842.

Photograph: Frank Blackwell

Monthly healing service in Fingest church

The Healing Service in Fingest began in 1983, in answer to a request from a parishioner for laying on of hands and anointing at his bedside. At his suggestion, the then Vicar of Turville, Paul Nicolson arranged for a healing service to be held on the fourth Friday of every month in Fingest church, for a trial period. The service was to be held in the context of the Eurcharist and ten copies of the 'Ministry to the Sick' were purchased. The churchwarden and his wife invited the congregation of eight or nine into their home after the service for coffee and biscuits. Eventually the time of fellowship after the service had to move to the Chequers Inn to accommodate the increase in numbers. Today, we welcome a group of twenty or more people each month, who continue to benefit from a suggestion made by one patient seventeen years ago. As Paul used to say at the start of the service 'We are doing the Lord's work and the Lord works according to his will'.

Annette Jackson

Annette helps at the healing service at Fingest where she is a licensed lay minister. Other churches in the Diocese hold regular healing services.

Wokingham's Healing Group

The All Saints Healing Prayer Group was formed in 1988 at the request of the PCC after a Mission identified healing as an omission in the work of All Saints. The group meets monthly and prays confidentially for individuals with a need for healing in its widest sense. Members of the group assist the clergy in the laying on of hands during the monthly Healing Service, either at Parish Communion, or a special Healing Service on Sunday evening. There is a monthly article on the Healing Ministry in the parish magazine.

There have been many instances of change brought about by prayer including physical cure, improved health or relationships, and the release of a good death. Recent moves include expanding the group to form a larger Healing Team. This will work with the Community Priest in praying for the needs of those with minimal experience of formal church services.

Janet Lucas

Janets is the Community Priest at All Saints, Wokingham.

r healing

Healing resources

Acorn Christian Healing Trust
Whitehill Chase, High Street, Bordon, Hants GU35 0AP Director: The Revd Russ Parker. The Trust offers resources and training to promote and develop all aspects of the Christian ministry of healing and wholeness. Tel: 01420 478121.

Burrswood Groombridge, Tunbridge, Wells TN3 9PY. Director: Gareth Tuckwell. Hospital in beautiful Kentish countryside brings together medicine and Christianity. Visitors welcome at services, which includes laying-on-of-hands, on Mondays at 11am, Thursdays at 11.30am and Saturdays and Sundays at 3.30pm. Tel: 01892 863818.

Circle of Prayer Healing
Federation of prayer groups in Wallingford, Goring areas. Also postal group of intercessors each of whom prays for three people a month. You would be welcome at fortnightly group Telephone Julian in confidence with prayer requests on 01491 641044.

Churches' Council for Health and Healing St Marylebone Church, Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5LT. Encouraging the Christian healing ministry, co-operating with medicine, providing resources, teaching, theological study. Tel: 020 79 35 5066.

Diocesan Adviser in Christian Healing: The Revd Hugh Kent, The Rectory, Maids Moreton, Bucks MK18 1QD. Tel: 01280 813246.

Divine Healing Mission The Old Rectory, Crowhurst, Battle, Sussex TN33 9AD. Director: The Revd Trevor Blackshaw. 'The oldest Christian healing residential centre in the world' offers the Church's ministry of healing through Scripture, Sacrament, counsel and care. Tel: 01424 830 204.

Harmony House Christian Healing Centre South Lodge, Newport Road, Willenm Milton Keynes MK15 9AA. Aims to set up a Christian healing centre for short stay whole person care and to bring together churches and caring professions in seminars, services etc. Offers intercessory prayer and new monthly quiet mornings for listening and prayer. Tel: 01908 233722

The Harnhill Centre of Christian Healing Cirencester, Glos, GL7 5PX. Warden: The Revd Paul Springate Resource centre for Christian healing offering residential stays, counselling facilities, courses. All welcome at healing services in beautiful little church in the grounds on Wednesdays (7.30pm) and Fridays (10.30am). Tel: 01285 850283.

Hospital Chaplains
In the Diocese of Oxford there are 14 full-time chaplains, paid by the NHS and 34 part-time chaplains. Most hospitals have their own chapels or quiet rooms. Hospital chaplains are very much involved in ministry of healing in its widest context. They are always willing to offer prayer, laying on of hands, Holy Annointing and the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Mothers' Union has a healing theme

THE MOTHERS' UNION are holding a day conference on 'Healing and Wholeness in Christ', their theme for 2000 – 2001. It will take place at the Barns Centre, Thame on Saturday 21 October from 10 am to 4 pm.

The aim of the day is to inform about the Church's ministry of healing and and its basis in Scripture. There will be an opportunity for prayer counselling including the laying on of hands in the context of Holy Communion.

The morning sessions will be led by The Revd Hugh Kent, Diocesan Advisor for Christian Healing and formerly Warden at Harnhill Centre for Christian Healing. Topics covered will include inner healing and intercessory prayer. There will be Holy Communion in St Mary's Church at 2pm. The preacher will be the Revd Keith Kinnaird who has special responsibility to the Bishop of Reading for the healing ministry. Tickets (free) from MU office 01865 726308 or Ismene Durand 01865 862198. Numbers are limited with priority for MU members. All welcome at the service but please let the office or Ismene know in advance.

Lord make me well

Christ give me strength;
your servant is not well.
The tongue that praisesd
you is made silent,
Struck dumb by the pain
of sickness.
I cannot bear not to sing
your praises.
O, make me well again,
make me whole,
That I may again proclaim
your greatness.
Do not forsake me, I
beseech you. Let me
return now to your service.

By Gregory of Nanzianzus who, in the 4th century, pioneered a more intimate way of praying.

How my own healing led me to the healing ministry

I had been suffering from ME for 20 years, when at a Sunday morning service, my vicar, Philip Roderick, laid hands on each member of the congregation during Communion, and prayed for their healing and wholeness. As he laid hands on me I experienced heat, which lasted for some time afterwards. Two days later my sense of taste and smell returned after an absence of about four years, and that was a real joy. ME is such a multi-symptom illness, and over time further symptoms often develop.

A few months later Philip laid hands on the congregation again. At this point I knew that I was teetering on the brink of a major relapse, and in the days following I remained there but without toppling over into the abyss. Then I had a strong feeling that I needed laying-on of-hands again, and that I must take the initiative and ask for it. I didn't even ring Philip to see if he was in (an act of faith in itself!), but simply got into my car and drove the three miles to the vicarage. Amazingly he was at home and readily agreed to lay hands on me in response to my very hesitant request. That night extraordinary things began to happen. It seemed as if channels within me that had been blocked for years suddenly opened, and I had the feeling that energy and the life forces were moving freely once again. My body, which

had felt like lead, became light, and I had the sensation that I was almost floating. The fogginess in my head lifted and in a moment of clarity I knew that I was going to get well.

My recovery took three -and-a-half months and I was grateful for that time-span, which gave me the chance to adjust mentally and emotionally, as well as physically, to a completely new life at 70 years old that I never expected to have. Whenever the healing process slowed or came to a halt, Philip laid hands on me and progress then restarted. In all, this occurred about eight times.

During this period other things were happening as well. I began to feel that I was being called to the healing ministry, and at the same time I was getting insights into the nature of healing itself. At first I could not imagine that God would wish to use me in this way, so I drew back and started to make demands on Him that I must be healed first, or at least be given a sign. But no, God was insisting that I should commit myself, and when I finally did, complete healing followed, and I also received a sign, but the leap of faith had to come first.

I am now a member of a growing healing team at St Michael's Church, Amersham, and I find it a humbling and deeply enriching experience to be part of this ministry.

Marjorie Redpath

Before her illness Marjorie was a youth worker in Milton Keynes

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Prayer diary OCTOBER

Father, hear the prayer we offer; not for ease that prayer shall be, but for strength that we may ever live our lives courageously.

The Oxford Diocesan Prayer Diary is edited by Graham Canning

Please cut this section and use it to pray for the needs of the Diocese.

Let us pray to God our Father for:

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sunday 1st Farmers and farm workers, particularly in the countryside near to us; for village stores and supermarkets, and all who provide us with our daily food.
Monday 2nd Abingdon Deanery. In the working out of their deanery plan: for all who are engaged in the ministry of Christ's Church; that clergy, chaplains, licensed lay ministers/workers, together with their faithful laity, may truly be Christ's people and do his work. That they may look beyond the conditions of their own situation and see their ministry in partnership with others, working as a team. For the area dean – Leighton Thomas: synod lay chairman – Barbara McGregor.
Tuesday 3rd Abingdon Team Ministry: clergy – Michael Goode, Michael Sams, Corinne Smith, George Cox, Charmian Manship, Peter Silva, Martin Lovering, Sally Welch, Tim Davis, Peter Walker, Simon Walker, Stephen Godfrey, Christopher Seaman, Pauline Seaman; licensed lay ministers – Roger Hancox, David Lever, Derek Walker, Colin Wood, Barry Taylor, Ian Kemp; full time youth worker – Charlie Lockwood.
Wednesday 4th Appleton: Besselsleigh with Dry Sandford; clergy – Bob Penman, John Cooper.
Thursday 5th Cumnor, Farmoor, Dean Court: clergy – Douglas Durand, Linden Fletcher; full time youth worker – Phillip Doragh; licensed lay ministers – Brian Dent, Eve Lockett, Terry Sharp.
Friday 6th Drayton (group ministry with Sutton Courtenay with Appleford and Steventon); clergy – Dorothy Derrick, Theresa Scott.
Saturday 7th Fyfield with Tubney and Kingston Bagpuize: clergy – Keith Triplow. Kennington: clergy – Terry Smith, Tony Johnson.

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sunday 8th The work of our church's missionary societies – USPG,CMS and SAMS, and for parish links with churches overseas. For the diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman: for their Bishop Itumeleng Moseki and the staff and clergy of the diocese.
Monday 9th Marcham: Gafford Chapel; clergy – Robin Lapwood. Radley with Sunningwell; clergy – Tom Gibbons, Tony Rogerson.
Tuesday 10th Steventon with Milton (group ministry with Sutton Courtenay with Appleford and Drayton): clergy – Colin Patching; licensed lay minister – Jack Jarvis, Tim Budd.
Wednesday 11th Sutton Courtenay with Appleford (group ministry with Drayton and Steventon with Milton): clergy – Leighton Thomas, Katie Jones.
Thursday 12th Wootton: clergy – John Cooper.
Friday 13th Our Archdeacons – John Morrison (Oxon) David Goldie (Bucks) Norman Russell (Berks)
Saturday 14th Board of Stewardship, Training, Evangelism and Ministry: Keith Lamdin, Martin Peirce, Bob Rhodes, Christine Redgrave, Andrew Meynell, Hilary Unwin, Jenny Hyson, Diane Clutterbuck, Barbara Doubtfire, Judi Shepherd, Anne Faulkner, Joanna Coney, Phillip Tovey, David Haylett, Andrew Gear, Beren Hartless, Jeni Hobbs, Pauline MacKinnon, Yvonne Ryan, Valerie Hooley, Lesley Young, Kay Slack.

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
World Rural Womens's Day andWeek of Prayer for World Peace
Sunday 15th

God of justice, you have shared with us your creative power to build a world for peace and justice. Guide us always to work for justice in our world, thus enabling us to live as brothers and sisters endowed with human dignity as members of your human family.

Monday 16th Aston and Cuddesdon Deanery: for the deanery pastoral committee as consultations take place over

Photograph: Keith Ellis

the ensuing months about possible pastoral reorganisation due to a reduction of three stipendiary clergy within the deanery called for over the next few years. For the area dean – John Crowe; synod lay chairman – Brian Newey.
Tuesday 17th Benson: clergy – Andrew Hawken
Wednesday 18th LUKE THE EVANGELIST. For our hospitals and hospices. For the church's ministry of healing; advisor – Hugh Kent. For our doctors and nurses. For hospital chaplains; clergy – Martin Lovering, Julie Green, Sebastian Jones, Sarah Sewell, Jeff Gosden, David Nash, Stephen Bushell, David Jackson.
Thursday 19th Hospital chaplains: clergy – Jeffrey Chard,Trevor Walt, Stephen Weston, Nicholas Gandy, Philip Dallaway, Graham Theobald, David Pritchard, Lee Rayfield, Nicholas Molony, Carol Hough, Roy Cave: Capt.Michael Milne (C.A.).
Friday 20th Hospital chaplains: clergy – Bernard Dagnall, Michael Smith, Bean Stevenson, Liz Johnson Oliver Howell, James Cocke, Nick Fennemore, Stephanie Bullock, Victoria Slater, Anthony McGowan, Philip Sutton, Hedley Feast.
Saturday 21st Hospital chaplains: clergy – Elizabeth Jackson, Judy Davies, Christopher Neal, Lydia McClean, Andrew Petit, John Salter, Christopher Evans, Richard Cheek, Jonathan Cruickshank, Derek Nuttall, Peter Stanway, Roger Stillman.

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY. One World Week
Sunday 22nd

May God's blessing inspire us: to work and to worship as if people matter, to speak and to serve as if people matter, to live and to love as if people matter, as much to each of us as they do to Jesus.

Monday 23rd Chalgrove: Berrick Salome: clergy – Ian Cohen; licensed lay minister – Robert Heath-Whyte.
Tuesday 24th Chinnor with Emmington and Sydenham, Aston Rowant with Crowell: clergy – Charles Draper, Joan Devel, Serena Hutton; licensed lay ministers – Maurice Barkes, David Bartlett, David Higgott, Dennis Porter.
Wednesday 25th Dorchester Area Team Ministry: clergy – John Crowe, Myles Godfrey, Simon Hill, Jan Hiles, Edward Tildesly, Marcus Braybrooke, Sue Booys; licensed lay ministers – Anthony Harman, Christine Winter, Alan Miles, Roger Cutts, Brian Newey.
Thursday 26th Ewelme, Brightwell Baldwin and Cuxham with Easington: clergy – Martin Garner; licensed lay ministers – John Burbridge, George Cannon.
Friday 27th Great Milton with Little Milton and Great Haseley: clergy – Victor Story.
Saturday 28th SIMON AND JUDE. Thame Valley Team Ministry: clergy – Christopher Neal, Simon Brignall, David Jackson, Ian Adams, Janet Hulett, Henry Brierly, Keith Weston; lay worker – Margaret Brierly; licensed lay ministers – Derek Witchell, Caroline Baynes, John Wilson -Brown, Caroline McKeown, Norman Lillley.

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY. Bible Sunday
Sunday 29th The Bible Reading Fellowship and the Bible Society; Wycliffe Bible Translators and those who are at work translating the Scriptures into foreign languages.and seeking to further understanding of them; for the work of SPCK.
Monday 30th Icknield: Britwell Salome, Pyrton and Shirburn, Swyncombe, Wallington; clergy – Christopher Evans, Helen Kendrick, Euan Henderson; licensed lay minister – Nick McLeish.
Tuesday 31st Wheatley Team Ministry: clergy – John Fuller, Angela Butler, John Edmonds-Seal, Mark Chapman, Chris Taylor, William Brierley, Richard Cowles, Mark Chapman, Brenda Knight, Caroline King; licensed lay ministers; Rodney Dawber, John Ingram, Richard Bainbridge, Marian Brown, Albert Eastham, Margaret Rosenthal.

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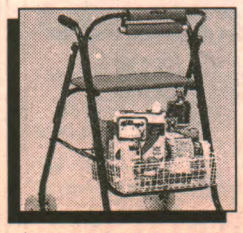

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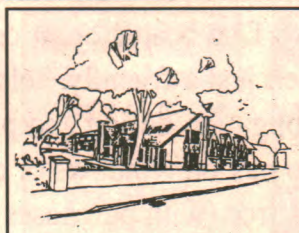

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If my progress continues I would hope to compete again next year, something I did not think possible.
I would recommend these products to every sportsman and woman wishing to improve their performance. Many thanks to Alec.

Yours sincerely,
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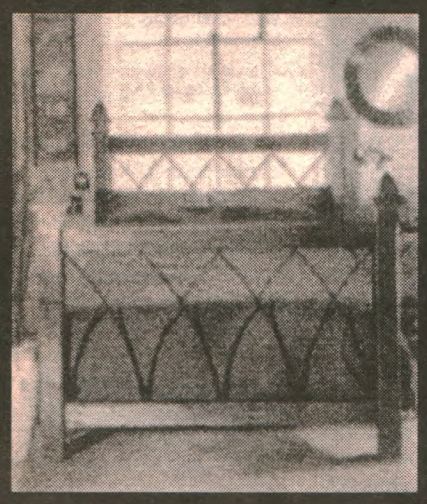

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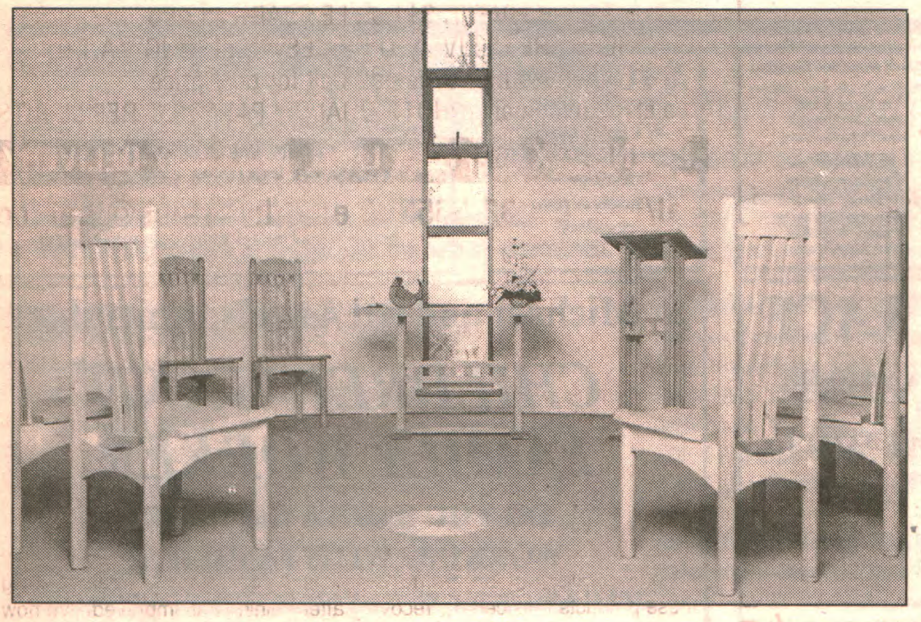

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Time of your life

Taizé - happiness through basic living

Anne Ishikawa, age 19 tells of her experience on the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Taizé in August (pictured below)

TAIZÉ was founded by Br. Roger. His thinking was to have a community of healing via reconciliation. He arrived in the French village in 1940 and ever since the community and the number of people visiting has grown.

Humbling experience

To see the way the brothers live their life during a visit is a very humbling experience. The community live with only the basics. They are not allowed to keep their inheritance, everything has to be given away to the poor. The one word to describe Taizé *is* basic. But it is very humbling to live and survive on the basics.

We all met at Church House and had a lovely commissioning service at St Lawrence's, North Hinksey a small local church near by, at which we received a wooden cross as a symbol of our pilgrimage. On arrival at Taizé it was a battle against time to put our tents up before the storms set in (we were told it storms every Sunday, and sure enough it did!)

The first few days felt a bit slow, but once we were divided into our small groups and did some Bible studies it soon picked up. They had various groups with differing amounts of teaching and we all were given a job to do in the compound. I had the glorious job of telling people to be quiet before the first prayer of the day (which wasn't exactly hard!)

Daily routine

The day routine revolved around the prayer times, studying the Bible and a time for socialising in an international way. Taizé is a place of unity it did not matter what language we spoke or what denomination we were from.

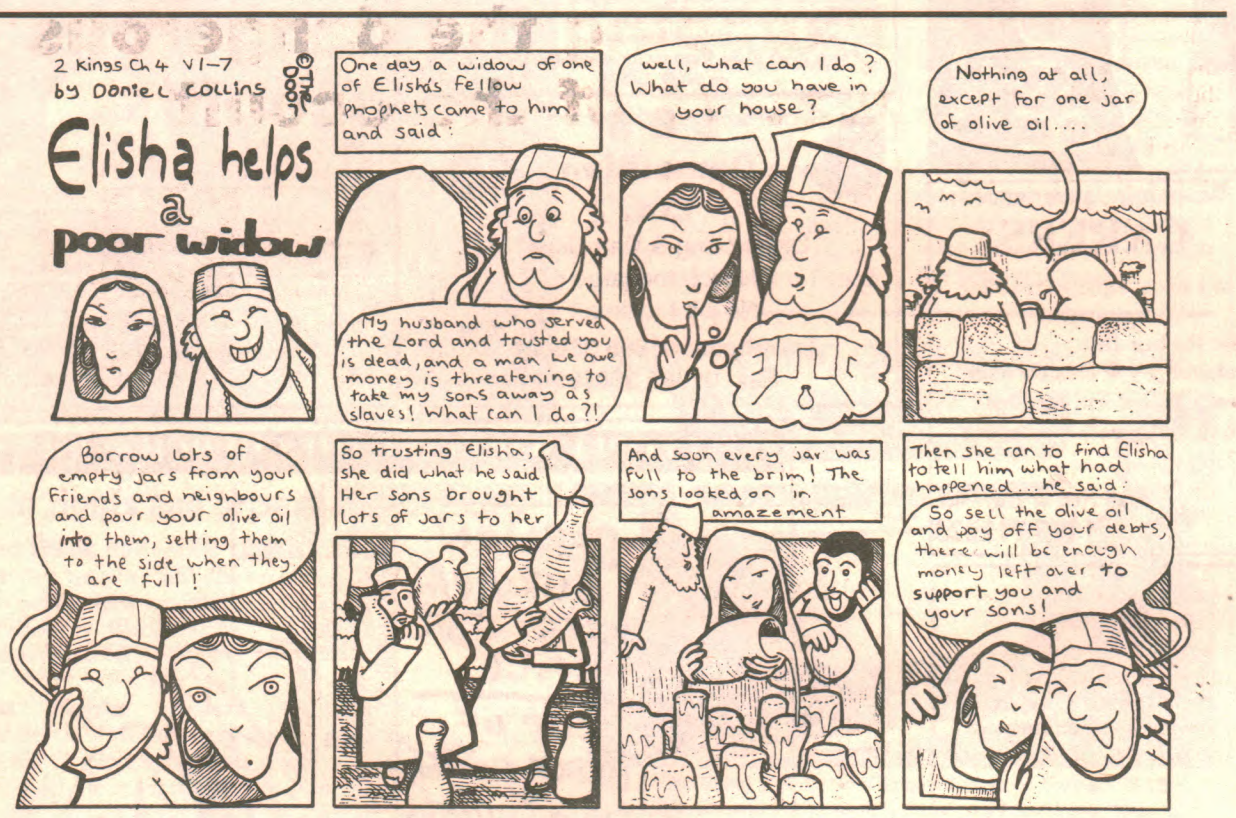
Spiritually it was a time of growing closer to God and for making some decisions about my life. I had been praying for direction for a long time, but God gave me more questions rather than answers!

All that Bishop Dominic said to us wonderfully complemented what I learnt from the Brothers. I felt very privileged to be part of the congregation when one of the brothers took his life vows. On occasions like these it makes me very happy to be Christian.

I can highly recommend Taizé which showed us what our faith should be like, and taught us that different denominational names and languages need not be barriers to a real faith revival. Thank you to Sheila, Richard, Andrew and Bishop Dominic who quoted a Chinese proverb which summed up our visit: 'Happiness is like a butterfly, the more you chase it the more it eludes you but if you just get on with the ordinary things, it will land on your shoulders.'

Taizé 2000 was for anyone between 16 and 25 years of age, from the 19 to 28 August. It was led by Bishop of Reading, Dominic Walker and organised by Andrew Gear (Diocesan Youth Advisor), the Revd Richard Hancock and the Revd Sheila Nunn.

For more information contact Andrew Gear on 01865 208253 or youthofficer@oxford.anglican.org. Or why not visit the Taizé website on www.taizé.fr



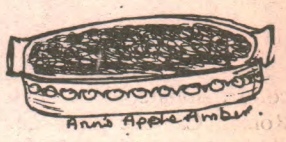
Ann's Apple Amber

by cookery writer, Ann Way

After morning church service we usually make Sunday a day for family gatherings so as soon as I return from church, the oven goes on and I get busy. A favourite pudding at this time of year using Autumn fruits is one I made up for them called 'Ann's Autumn Amber'! This is enough for four to five people.

You will need

2 fluid ozs water
4 large slices wholemeal bread
2 conference or similar hard type pears
2 large cooking apples
2 tablespoons of golden syrup
1 lemon & rind finely grated
1 large orange & half rind
4 oz butter or margarine
1 level teaspoon cinnamon powder
1 dessert spoon demerara sugar



Method

Crumble the wholemeal bread finely. Melt the butter or margarine. This can be low fat marg or butter substitute if preferred. Add the bread to the melted fat and stir in the soft brown sugar and the cinnamon powder. Set to one side.

Peel and core the apples and the pears and cut into pieces about one inch large. Place in a saucepan with the lemon juice, orange juice and grated rinds. Stir in the water and the golden syrup. Bring to the boil and then turn down the heat and simmer gently until the fruit has softened and the liquid has reduced to a slightly sticky syrup consistency. Tip the fruit and juice into an oven proof dish and cover with the bread mixture. Sprinkle the top of the pudding with the demerara sugar, then cook in a medium oven until the topping is nice and crispy. Lovely served with custard, yoghurt and creme fraiche goes well with it too.

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Arts

BOOKS FILMS ART MUSIC

Three books on healing reviewed by **Ann Lee**

AT FIRST SIGHT it might seem that books I have reviewed make unlikely bedfellows. But this issue of The DOOR has a feature on the Church's Ministry of Healing and each of these books has at its centre issues of healing and wholeness. The good news of Jesus Christ is, by definition, psychologically healthy; unfortunately our churches, where we attempt to proclaim that Gospel, do not always live up to this. Churches are, of course, made up of people to a greater or lesser extent, walking wounded. After all, the good news of Jesus is that he came for the poor, the lame, the blind and the prisoner, to offer us healing and freedom.

Ann Lee is an academic psychologist. She lives in Oxford where she is currently working on the psychology of religion.

Cry from a wounded heart

WOUNDED PROPHET
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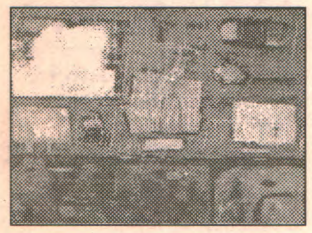
DARTON LONGMAN & TODD £9.95

MANY of us have been profoundly helped in our journey of faith by Henri Nouwen, one of the most prolific Christian writers of the late 20th century. This books sets Nouwen's life in context, but Ford is at pains to point out that it is not a biography, but an 'exploration of (his) person as a wounded prophet for our time' (page 10). We find in this book a charismatic, maverick, compassionate, wounded Roman Catholic priest more able to communicate the faith than to live it. But it is this very woundedness that was the most powerful tool Nouwen possessed which enabled him to share in the lives of so many people and to bring the profound, healing love of Jesus to a vast audience through his writing.

The book is divided into three sections: Heart, Mind and Body. I was touched most deeply by the first section which aims to present the important themes of Nouwen's life by exploring the many roles he played and the difficulties he faced rather than by looking at his life as a series of chronological events. I found in these pages a man with a deep desire to share his understanding of the Gospel, the good news of Jesus, but whose own wounds often prevented him from living it. I suppose this is why so many of us from a wide variety of Christian traditions have found Nouwen's writings so important in our own journey of faith and healing because we recognised in them the implicit cries from Nouwen's own heart. The second two sections use a more recognisable biographical format and look at Nouwen's life chronologically from his early days at home in Holland, via his seminary to his life in American academia, Latin America and with L'Arche. I strongly recommend anyone who has been profoundly touched by Henri Nouwen to read this book because here we find somebody not on a pedestal, but a man we can easily identify with who had the same struggles we have in his attempt to live out the faith in a broken world.



Exhibition goes full circle

The paintings of Ernesto Lozada-Uzuriaga will be on display at the Ark-T Gallery, Crowell Rd, Cowley Oxford from 9 to 18 October in an exhibition called 'Full Circle'. Open on Mondays/Tuesdays 12–2pm, Wednesdays 10–4pm, Saturdays 10– noon. Website www.ark-t.org

'Her sins which were many Luke 7 v36-50', a window in St Mary Magdalene's church Latimer, Buckinghamshire.

DAVID CUDD of Stoke Poges, the photographer of the stained glass window above writes: 'I am taking photographs of stained and painted glass windows from one hundred churches, in and around the Oxford Diocese. I will be placing the photographs of the churches and their windows into a book which I am putting together.'

Years ago, he says, stained glass windows were put into churches for the benefit of those who could not read or write so that the scene depicted in the window would help people to understand the Bible. 'I am continuing the theme of every picture tells a story in my book' say David Cudd.

He is looking for more churches to photograph for his book. If anybody would like their stained and painted glass windows to be included please him to make an appointment. There is, we understand, no cost involved.

For more information contact David Cudd. Telephone 01753 663511.

The courage to go public on an unGodly abuse within the Church

UNGODLY FEAR
STEPHEN PARSONS
LION PUBLISHING £10

THIS BOOK is not intended to be a collection of five horror stories constructed to titillate our imaginations. It is, rather, five stories of deep hurt from people with the courage to allow their stories to 'go public' in the hopes that by so doing other people will be made aware of the dangers of what they may be doing in the name of Jesus.

Stephen Parsons, the Vicar of Lechlade in Gloucestershire, has written a very powerful, readable book of great depth. Having been involved in a healing ministry for a number of years, he became aware of the apparently large numbers of people who seemed to have suffered at the hands of Christian churches. He identified certain common themes: vulnerable people had, in a variety of different ways, been exploited by church leaders and in particular by their use of the Bible, which they used as a tool for exercising their authority. All the case histories in this book are from people who had been involved in fundamentalist churches, but those of us who are not from a fundamentalist tradition must beware of pointing the finger and exclaiming in horror at the stories in this book. Just remember that when pointing one finger at someone else, four are pointing back at ourselves. The issue of power, its correct use and its abuse, is one which needs to be addressed in all institutions, whether in the world of business, education or the Church.

This book's overtly stated task is to go beyond these stories, to identify the problems of abuse inherent in the fundamentalist approach, to construct a framework to help us understand and identify fundamentalism and, most importantly, to help to bring healing to those hurt by it.

Plumbing the dangerous waters of the occult

THE HIGH FLYER
SUSAN HOWATCH
LITTLE, BROWN & COMPANY £10.99

SUSAN HOWATCH has excelled herself with *The High Flyer*. It does not present itself as part of her Starbridge series, but some of the same characters are back in the second half helping to bring sense and the healing of Jesus to the chaos of the first half.

Carter, the high flyer at the heart of this story, is a partner in a prestigious law firm, her life firmly in her own hands with a plan she implements with meticulous thoroughness. Having decided to marry at 35, Carter now aged 34, decides the moment has come to start putting that plan into action. She meets Kim Betz in the business class lounge at Heathrow and recognises in him a similar ruthlessness and desire to be at the top. They marry. But what Carter had not recognised was that this man was inherently flawed and had been involved in the occult.

Susan Howatch has written a brilliant and profound apologia for faith, using a most unlikely format. I hope that this will reach a far wider audience than those of us who are hooked on her Starbridge series for the portrait they present of the Church. The need for healing is within us all, but Susan Howatch goes to the depths of those dangerous waters of the occult in which Carter nearly drowns and through which Kim is destroyed. Add Kim's Christian first wife who tries vainly to warn Carter and Mrs Mayfield who describes herself as a psychic healer and you have an explosive mix. I could not put this book down. But the main theme of this book is that even here, in a world of evil, the love, healing and power of Jesus can meet us, redeem us and transform us. Please read this book.

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Trying to unearth precious diamonds

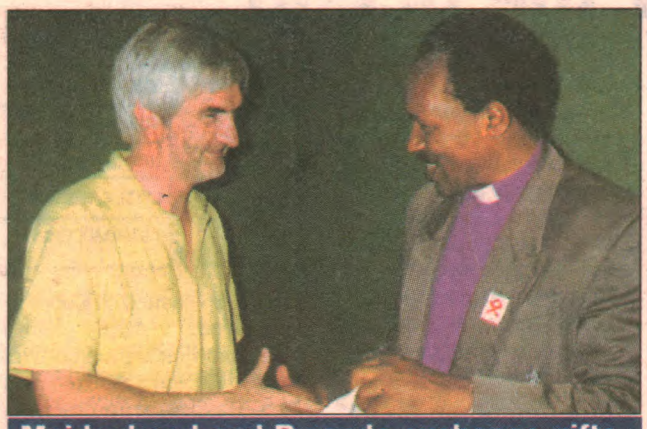
Ossie Swartz writes from the cathedral in our link Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman, South Africa

IN A RECENT LETTER *from Kimberley Cathedral, Canon Oswald Swartz (Ossie) writes about the continuing relationship between the Oxford and K&K Diocese and the importance of this relationship remaining meaningful in a changing world. Ossie says:*

'The word friendship' has always been part of the equation. Friends are aware of each other's needs – in fact real friends are able to respond to the other's needs. In trying to respond positively to the needs of the Oxford Diocese we make our resources available to them. The first of our resources is a spirit of hospitality.

Our Diocese finds its job of nurturing the people of God and winning souls for the Kingdom hamstrung by sheer lack of manpower. While this very large Diocese has a scarcity of natural resources, it rejoices in the fact that it is blessed through the quality of its human resources. Unfortunately we find ourselves in a cleft stick. the Diocese, based around the diamond fields of South Africa, cannot unearth the more precious diamonds represented by its people because it is grossly understaffed. So the vicious circle continues: not enough clergy to spend quality time in the congregations thus leaving potential leaders undiscovered so that we have to battle on with limited human resources.

The Bishop has embarked on a programme of identifying candidates for a new category (for this Diocese) of community priests which will also expand the non-stipendiary ministry. This process is well underway and the new deacons are engaged in a training course.'



Maidenhead and Rwanda exchange gifts

A team from St Mary's, Maidenhead recently made a second visit to Kigeme Diocese, Rwanda. The group was greeted by the Archbishop of Rwanda (*pictured with Jeremy Hyde - group leader*) 'We were overwhelmed by the friendliness and generosity of people wherever we went' said Martin Rich.' In addition, by using local workers at a cost of £1.30 per day for an experienced painter, we were able to refurbish two classrooms and a complete hospital ward.' Many of the local churches would like to have some link with a parish in the UK. For details contact Margaret Hyde 01628 621651.

This is Holy Unsuitable

Simon Smith describes an off the wall post-modern event in Thame aimed at the 20 to 30 something GenerationXers. He is the fierce-looking one in the picture with Jim Faulkner

THAME is a lively market town of about 12,000 people, with a flourishing business life of its own as well as being home to many who commute to Oxford and London. The parish church of St Mary the Virgin is part of the Thame Valley Team.

Holy Unsuitable is a non-threatening St Mary's/Barley Hill-sponsored live-music-comedy-and-video outreach project for Generation Xers – primarily 20 to 30s somethings within the church to use in their personal witness to unchurched friends. It's all very post-modern, and a whole lot more exciting than it sounds. Honest.

Squash club venue

Holy Unsuitable is irregular in every sense. It takes place in a 'neutral' non-church venue - currently the function room and bar at a local squash club. We try to put the emphasis on entertainment and it's about having a really good night out in a very relaxed and comfortable atmosphere which, for most of our target group would normally mean an evening with some mates in the boozer.

Holy Unsuitable is funded by a PCC grant from St. Mary's and Barley Hill churches in Thame and ticket sales (currently £3 a ticket, £2 concessions) plus donations. Our audience consists mainly of church members and their friends, but is open to all. Recently we've had visitors from London, Coventry and Walsall at our shows.

We are 'pre-evangelistic' in the sense that we deliberately aim to have nothing overtly evangelistic written into the content of the evenings ie there's no 'teaching', no Gospel message, testimony, communal singing or altar calls. This is because we are looking to fit our events to cell group principles which the Church here in Thame is beginning to explore and develop. So we aim to provide a non-cheesy 'church' environment where folk from our congregations can bring their unchurched friends.

Holy Unsuitable has been called a lot of things, but we think that our curate Ian Adams pretty much hit the nail on the head when he said that it is 'not so much an event to attend as a place to be' in the belief that usually 'belonging comes before believing'. It's about breaking down their preconceptions of church, and hopefully removing some of the barriers. We're effectively saying 'join our club'.

Photograph: Steve Eyre

Introducing Si and Jim

The evening's entertainment is partly 'bought in', but mainly home-produced, being written and performed by Si Smith and Jim Faulkner, a couple of marvellously talented/otherwise under-employed blokes *(pictured)* from our church. Live music for the shows is bought in, with ex-members of a now-defunct indie band called FLOW being our stalwart regulars. Holy Unsuitable is overseen by members of the Thame Valley Ministry Team, to whom the show writers and co-ordinators make themselves accountable. A clergy member sees our scripts before each show, and has the right of veto over anything that is deemed particularly inappropriate. Hence the removal of the 'Mud Wrestling Clergy' item from our last-but-one show!

Attendances at Holy Unsuitable have varied, but we have never dipped below 60, which is pretty good for a small venue. We have estimated that the percentage of non or fringe church people in attendance has been about 40%, which is very pleasing. Even more pleasing is the fact that the events are attracting a bit of a 'following', with folk returning and bringing more friends with them each time.

Ok but does it work?

As we do no altar calls we don't have any tangible 'results' to show for the project, but the anecdotal evidence is encouraging and the fact that church members are using the events as part of their personal evangelism is proof that the project is worthwhile. Since our pilot show back in April '99 we've done seven Holy Unsuitables, and they improve each time, as we learn the lessons of every performance and gain more confidence in our writing and performance, and also in our use of the available technology. The equipment that we use at our events is loaned to us by the Oxford-based audio-visual company of a church member, to whom we are, as ever, hugely grateful. Future plans include a website, further shows in the new year and the possibility of hiring in more acts like Jon Archer (a professional Christian comedian) for a 'Holy Unsuitable Presents' event.

For more information about Holy Unsuitable, you can contact us on 01844 216313 or via e-mail at si.smith@talk21.com

More about St Mary's

The existing church building dates back to the early 13th century. The imaginative re-ordering of St Mary's in the 1990's by architect Bob Maguire has provided us with a beautiful, light and versatile space in which to worship and pray.

Within St Mary's we are trying to encourage a wide variety of worship styles and emphases. So, for example, a typical Sunday begins with BCP Holy Communion at 8am. At 9.15am, is the 'Daybreak' congregation worshipping in modern liturgical Anglican style (ASB/Common Worship). This is followed at 11am by the service of the 'Open House' congregation, with a more informal approach. At 4pm twice a month there is 'Quiet Place', a contemplative hour of prayer with Taizé/Celtic influences; on the other two Sundays there is a service of BCP Evensong. Finally at 6.30pm at 'Evening Celebration' everyone comes together for service in a contemporary style.

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by David Winter

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace'
Luke 8 v 48

THESE words were addressed by Jesus to a woman with a persistent haemorrhage, which was not only a serious medical condition but also, in that society, effectively cut her off from human contact and religious worship (see Leviticus 15 v 25-30). So she may serve as an example of the impact of ill health on people's lives; it causes distress and pain, obviously, but can also be an isolating and frightening experience. Matthew and Mark record that she had spent a small fortune on medical treatment – confirmation that anxiety about health is not simply a modern phenomenon. This story concludes with the woman's simple act of faith, touching the 'fringe' of Christ's clothes, and with her immediate healing. She actually felt the bleeding stop. When – rather reluctantly – she stepped forward to reveal herself, Jesus reassured her with these words. 'Your faith has healed you' is almost a formula saying on his lips. Normally (though not always) faith was the key to healing in the ministry of Jesus.

But this is not at all the same thing as what is popularly known as 'faith healing'. People were healed by the power of God working through Jesus. But that healing had to be sought, and it was in that seeking that the person showed faith. The healing itself, however, was the work of God, not the person's 'faith'. Where it was the healing of a specific illness or condition, it was also a gift of God, something that couldn't be deserved, earned or demanded, but only received. That seems to be the answer to the 'problem' of unanswered prayer for healing: such healing is God's gift, and you can't *demand* a gift.

In any case, what Jesus offered was not an insurance policy against illness or disease, but a total life – body, mind and spirit – restored to wholeness, becoming more completely what God intends us to be. 'Go in peace, your faith has made you *whole*.'

Canon David Winter is a former Diocesan director of evangelism, a broadcaster and the author of many books including *Message for the Millennium (BRF).*

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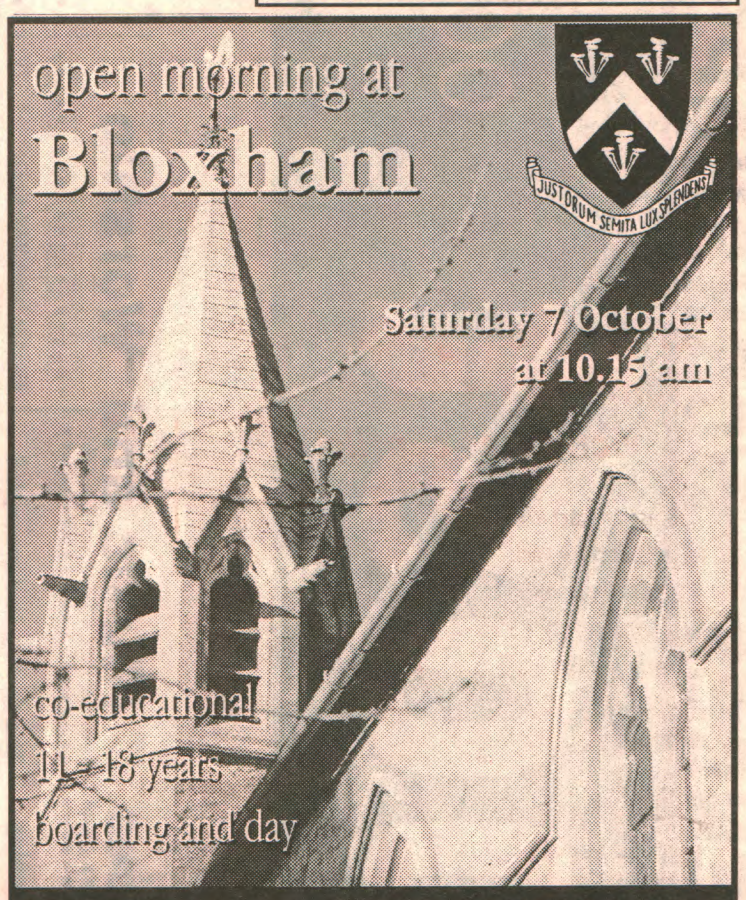

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5 Oct eight week WEA course, from 10am-12pm at Ewert House, Oxford.
25 Oct Character in English Poetry. Readings from 600 years commemorating the death of Chaucer at The Spring, Highmoor Hall 10am - 4pm
26 Oct Short version of Character in English Poetry at The Barns Centre, Thame 8pm. *Tel 01844-213673 for details*

The Tyndale Society

6 Oct 'Getting it Across', lecture by poet UA Fanthorpe, tour of Gloucester Cathedral, evensong and supper. Lecture and supper £10, lecture only, £3. *Details from David Green (01285) 821651*
19 Oct Annual Hertford College Tyndale Lecture 5pm. Free entrance.
29 Oct Choppe and Chaungel, 10am-5pm. Courtauld Institute of Art, London. A day of lectures, discussion, life readings, music and a film screening focussing on new research, translations and publications of the bible with Tyndale as the touchstone. £15.*For further details (01865) 848746*

Milton Keynes Training Courses
3 Oct Worship Leaders' Course, leader's presentation
10 Oct Enabling Worship
10 Oct Preparation for leading worship, leading prayer in worship. Leaders Revd Margaret Goodall, Revd Murdoch McKenzie, Revd Jan Appleby. Methodist Church, Newport £10 for three from one church

20th Century Christians
16 Oct Lesslie Newbiggin and the worldwide church.
30 Oct Robert Runcie 'Faith in the City' £5 per session, £2.50 concessions.*The Well, Newport Rd, Willen, Milton Keynes.*

20 Oct FOCUS (Federation of Christian Counselling and Caring Schemes) at Church House, 9.30 - 2.30pm. Workshop on conflict management led by Keith Lamdin. All welcome, please bring lunch, drinks provided. Members £12, non-members £15. *Applications to Sheila Stephen 0118 9575120*

17 Oct Amersham Millennium Lectures 'On being a Christian in the Third Millennium' presented by the Right Revd John Selby Spong, scholar, controversial author and recently retired Bishop of the Diocese of Newark, USA. *Tickets £6, (£3.50 concession) 8-10pm, St Michael's Church Amersham, Bucks, HP6 5DR (01494) 726680*

21 Oct Hands to the Plough St Michaels Church, Amersham-on-the-Hill. 10 - 4.30pm. Organised jointly with Chiltern Peace and Justice and Contemplatives-in-Action. Speaker: Canon Paul Oestreicher from the International Centre for Reconciliation speaking on You Can't Change Human Nature? Why Not? Tickets £5 *Details from Jean Hatton (01494) 774113*

Cottesloe Christian Training Programme
30 Oct (book by 16 Oct) '..that little Springtime' (Taizé) Sylvia Nutt will be sharing with us something of what draws her to Taizé. 8pm Whaddon Chapel £4.
31 Oct (book by 17 Oct) saying. 8pm Whitchurch Church Hall. £4
6 Nov (book by 23 Oct) Unnecessary Complications. Gordon Goldberg explores the Jewish roots of Christianity. 8pm Padbury Village Hall £4.
13 Nov (book by 30 Oct) Down-load your magazine! John Hadjioannou, curate at Linslade, will be offering us his expertise and advice. 8pm Mursley Parish Room, £4.

Tue 14 Royal Society of Church Music and Oxford Diocese Children's Advisor Jenny Hyson 'Protecting our Children' a workshop for choir leaders, music directors, clergy and parish child protection reps. at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Botley. 7.30 - 9.30pm. All participants must book no later than 2 Nov. *Bookings to Jane Palmer (01235) 531576 £2, cheques to 'RSCM' Oxford.*

Borders of Science and Faith
4 Nov The Council of Florence (1438-9): Success or failure? 10.30-4pm St Theosevia Centre for Christian Spirituality, 2 Canterbury Road, Oxford OX2 6LU
6 Nov The Church of England and the 'Filioque'. 8pm, speaker Canon Hugh Wybrew. *Details from Revd Dr Ann Shukman, St Theosevia Centre (01865) 310341 or sttheosevia@onetel.net.uk*

ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE.
Action by Christians against Torture (ACAT UK) was formed in 1984 under the umbrella of the then British Council of Churches, with the support of Amnesty International and the Society of Friends. ACAT, which is a registered charity, seeks to educate the churches as well as individual Christians in the evils of tor-

Conferences

Harnhill Centre Teaching and Ministry Week
Non-residential conferences with well-known American Bible teachers
2-6 Oct Healing Week with personal prayer counselling.(£137)
6-8 Healing Weekend (£72)
14 Training Day
16-18 Oct Journey through the Soul: Carla Waterman
19-22 Oct Wholeness in Christ: Signa and Conlee Bodisbaugh
27-29 Oct Refreshment Weekend with Marilyn Baker (£75)
30-3 Nov Healing through Creative Writing. *Tracy Williamson and Marilyn Baker. Harnhill Manor , Cirencester, Glos GL7 5PX, tel 01285 850283/4, fax 01283 850519, e-mail: office@harnhillcentre.freeserve.co.uk Warden: Revd Paul Springate*

Sat 21 Oct Thame
The Oxford Diocese Mothers Union Conference on 'Healing and Wholeness in Christ' at the Barns Centre 10am - 4pm. *Details and booking information (day is free of charge) via Diocesan MU office (01865) 726308*

13 - 16 Nov Swanwick
'Good News in the Countryside', the second national rural evangelism conference. Sponsored by Springboard and the Rural Evangelism Network. The

Music and Worship

The Spring, Highmoor Hall
14 Oct Seasonal Concert, 7.45pm. Christine Townsend (violin/viola) and Stephen Robbings (piano) present three pieces from Tchaikovsky's piano cycle The Seasons, and Autumn from Vivaldi's Four Seasons.
3 Nov Graham Kendrick presents a variety of his songs and his award winning Millennium Chorus, including video clips from the TV special - featuring Michael Crawford, Maire Brennan, Michael W Smith and others. *For details: The Administrator, The Lodge, Highmoor Hall, Highmoor, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 5DH (01491) 641167*

5 Oct Wells Cathedral
Choral Pilgramage 7.30pm. Byrd, Sheppard, Browne, Tavener, Tallis and Richard Hygons (of Wells) *Salve Regina*, from the Eton choirbook. Tickets £18, £15, side aisles £8 &£5 from *0117 922 3686*

8 Oct 'West End Meets Hook Norton' St Peter's Church Hook Norton, an evening of hit songs from West End musicals performed by some of the cast members of various shows: Jane Fowler, Stuart Pendred, Michael Rouse and Dave Preece. 7.30pm Tickets £10 (£8 concessions) *Details from Keith Fowler 01608 737657*

14 Oct Chinnor. Concert by the Chinnor Silver Band, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Chinnor. Tickets £5, concessions £4. *For details contact David DeVal (01844) 353733*

Music and Worship Foundation
1 Oct Harvest praise, Cumnor
16 Oct Archway presentation
21 Oct Prism of Praise, Sutton Coldfield
Sat 18 Nov Worship with Instruments led by Roger Peach. Explore more effective ways you can use instruments in worship. 1.30 - 5pm, Christ Church Abingdon. £5
The regular MWF choir will meet on Monday evenings at 7.45pm in St Clement's Family Centre, Cross Street. *For details contact Music and Worship Foundation Representative, Martin Cox 01865 454078*

27 Oct Piano Recital Julia Cloud, 7.30pm, £6. At Ark-T Centre, Crowell Road, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 3LN (01865) 773499

5 Nov New anthem has been commissioned for the choir of All Saint's Church Rotherfield Peppard as a significant contribution to mark the Millennium and in memory of Vernon Openshaw, Organist and Choirmaster of All Saint's from 1955 - 98. The composer Grayston Ives, accepted, the anthem is for a four part choir, with words by Isaac Watts: 'There is a land of pure delight, where saints immortal reign'. *For details contact K.B Atkinson 0118 972 2844*

26 Nov Milton Keynes Roger Jones' Musical 'Snakes and Ladders' at Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes. Matinee

Theatre

Fri 6 Oct The Riding Lights Theatre Company, the country's leading Christian theatre company present 'Friendly Fire' at New Life Church, New Bradwell, Milton Keynes. The play is by Nigel Forde who in 1998 was nominated for a BAFTA and won an EMMY Award for his script-writing for the animated television series, *Testament*. National Locall Box Office 0845 961 3000

Harvest

NFU Harvest Festival
for Bucks, Berks and Oxon at Dorchester Abbey on 15 Oct , 3pm. Following the service afternoon tea will be provided in the Abbey. *For details contact Clare Muskett 01865 887800*

17 Oct Market Whys and Human Wherefores. The Alan Christmas Lecture 2000. St Mary's Church, Church Street, Slough. Doors open from 7.30pm. Details from Revd John Nicholson (01753) 770149

Churches and Tourism Sat 4 Nov Thame Barnes Centre 'Developing Church Trails' 9.30am coffee, 9.45am - 1pm. Cost £5. Keynote speaker: Sue Beel, Tourism

Alpha

5 Oct Oxford Apollo Theatre, George Street Oxford. Doors Open 7.30pm, tickets £4 (£3 for five or more) A thought provoking evening with Nicky Gumbel, who will talk on the theme 'Christianity: boring, untrue and irrelevant'? *Call Apollo Box Office on 0870 606 3500*

Retreats

Abbey House Glastonbury

Mon 9 Oct An Autumn Walk led by David Hill (warden) A walk for autumn with space to see God in creation. Bring a picnic, strong shoes and waterproof clothing 10am-4pm £5
Wed 11 Oct 'On the Edge' a gentle look at areas where we don't fit in with main stream society led by Cynthia Dean (Abbey House Staff) 10am-4pm £11 - includes coffee, lunch and tea.
Fri 20 - 22 Oct There's A Wideness in God's Mercy. A mostly silent open retreat led by Bishop John Neale. Cost £72

church for up to 5 people.

Common Worship Workshop
11 Oct Led by Alan Dibden (Diocesan Liturgical Group) 10am-3pm Church of Christ the King, Furzton, Milton Keynes.

Bishops of the Church of England have recently issued two reports on these matters: Marriage and marriage in church after divorce. Jo Saunders will help us understand what these reports are

to involve them on the campaign for the abolition of torture. It works on two levels - by action and prayer and through support for individual prisoners. For more information contact *Lois Stamelis (01752 849821.*

details contact Springboard (01235) 553922.

The November issue will be ready for collection on Friday 27 October

Leisure Centre (01908) 314466. www.cmm.org.uk

Programmes will be sent to those who book a place. Please book by 23 Oct. *Details: Revd Glyn Evans. glynevans@goldserve.net*

by times of led reflection, space and worship. £10 includes Sunday lunch and tea.
For details contact David Hill (warden)

What's On

What's On is a free service for readers of The Door. If you would like your parish event included on The DoorPost, send details in writing to the address below before the deadline 18 October 2000.

OCTOBER

Sun 1 Oct WESTMINSTER ABBEY Help the Aged staff, Church Friends, VIPs and guests will be joining the congregation at the 3pm Evensong service. Details from Terry Thirdborough 020 7253 0253

Sat 7 FARINGDON Concert given by children from Dean Close School, Cheltenham in All Saints Church, 7.30pm. Tickets £3 adults, £1.50 children. In aid of Save the Children

Sun 8 SANDHURST Harvest Festival Service St Michael and All Angels, 9.30am. Details: Mrs Margaret Lee (01344) 771013

Mon 9 READING GSS Meeting, St Laurence Church. Quiet evening and Compline, 8pm Details: David L Gillman (0118) 9598102

Tue 10 COOKHAM DEAN Organ recital at 8pm with Dr Roy Massey (Hereford Cathedral) Tickets £7.50, details from David Colthup 01628 529861

Wed 11 ASTON TIRROLD Introduction to Education for Ministry course. Ecumenical and includes theological reflection. 7.30pm at Centre for Reflection, United Reformed Church.Tel: (01491) 652024.

Wed 11 OXFORD Sowers prayer group. Supportive and creative sewing group, working on projects for the community, possible projects banner/altar drape for a church. At the Ark-T Centre, Cowley. 7.30pm, the group will meet once a fortnight.
Details (01865) 773499

Fri 13 ADDERBURY Awareness evening for The Children's Society, St. Mary's Church 7.30pm. Details from Hon Sec. Mrs M Williams tel: 01295 810694

Fri 13 HOOK NORTON Coffee Morning 9-11.30am at the Study Centre Hook Norton Primary School. Coffee and cakes, raffle, good as new clothes sale.

Fri 13 - 19 HIGH WYCOMBE Jesus the Christ Cinema Project. On behalf of Celebrating Jesus 2000, at Wycombe UCI screening of the 93 minute film *Jesus the Christ*. Details from UCI Cinema 0870 0102030

Sat 14 CHALFONT ST GILES London Emmanuel Choir concert at Parish Church. 7pm, tickets £2. Details: Brian Taylor (01494) 874637 or Joyce Norton (01494) 875840

Sat 14 MORTIMER Handel's Messiah, part of BT Voices for Hospices 2000. In aid of Duchess of Kent House, Reading. Come and sing or listen. St Mary's Church, 7.30pm Details: 0118 9332001

Sat 14 DORCHESTER ABBEY Annual RSCM Choirs' Festival, directed by Philip Moore (York Minster). Festival Evensong 5pm. Details 0118 972 2844

Sat 14 WINDSOR Royal Free Singers 'Voices for Hospices' concert. 7.30pm Windsor Parish Church. Singers £6, audience £7.50, Details: Anne Rendell 10753 861602

Sat 14 KIDLINGTON 'Come and Sing' concert of Handel's Messiah at St Mary's Church. Optional practice from 2.45 to 5.45pm. Tickets £5 participants, £6 audience. Details K Ellis 01865 372230

Mon 16 OXFORD Oxford Council of Christians and Jews. Professor Geza Vermes FBA on The Changing Faces of Jesus. Oxford Jewish Centre, Richmond Rd 8pm.

Mon 16- Fri 20 IVER HEATH Apple Week. A fun look at the apple, lots of art and craft. Iver Nature Study Centre. Booking essential on (01895) 270730

Wed 18 WOKINGHAM Celebration of Health for St Luke's-tide. 7.45pm at All Saints, Wokingham. Preacher: Canon Trevor Walt, Chaplain of Broadmoor Hospital. Details: 01189 790098

Wed 18 OXFORD Any Questions: 7.30pm Oxford Town Hall. Chair Bill Heine; panel the Bishop of Oxford, Sister Gabriel Benedict, David Collett and Angela Knight. Tickets £4 at door, £3 in advance from St Andrews Bookshops.

Sat 21 OXFORD At Westminster College Chapel, a Eucharist for mission celebrant Revd Roger Parker, preacher Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB from St Benetts Hall. All are welcome.

Sat 21 MILTON KEYNES To celebrate One World Week there is a Craft Fair at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone. Crafts from Traidcraft, Toybox Crafts, Tearcraft, Jacob's Well, Symbios and Oxfam Fair Trade. Details 01908 567436

Sat 21 OXFORD Coffee morning and Bring and Buy sale - in aid of the Church Mission Society. St Andrews Church, Linton Road, North Oxford. The Rev Dr Guli Francis Dehqahi will be speaking about Iran. 10.30am-12.

Thur 26 MONKS RISBOROUGH 'Being in the Presence of God' 9.30am - 12.30pm. St Dunstan's Church, led by Moira Spence and Jill Iredale. Details: Moira 01844 275759, Jill 01844 346488

Fri 27 Oct FINGEST (Hambleden Valley, near Henley) Healing service with laying on of hands and anointing at Holy Communion 10.15am. Details 014915 71231

Sat 28 MILTON KEYNES Words and Worlds, an exploration of spirituality and poetry. For details contact The Well, Newport Road, Willen, Milton Keynes, 01908 200675 or 01908 607965

Sun 29 DORCHESTER ABBEY. 'Religion and Peace' with Sir John Weston, former British Ambassador to the United Nations. 10.30am Team sung Eucharist, 12.15pm - 3.30pm Conference at Abbey Guest House (lunch provided)

NOVEMBER

Fri 4 DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP Choral Evensong 8pm at St. Mary the Virgin with the Bishop of Oxford. Commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the death of Richard Hooker, the Elizabethan Divine. Details 01296 631365

Sat 4 OXFORD Study Day at Wycliffe Hall, 54 Banbury Rd, Oxford: Alan Garrow on Revelation. Details: 01865 274212 or email external@wycliffe-hall.ox.ac.uk

Sat 4 WENDOVER A vocations breakfast. Wendover Christian Centre, Aylesbury Road, Wendover. 8.30am-12.30pm, £3. Details: Mrs H Unwin (01494) 725228

Sat 4 SANDHURST Organ recital by Keith Hearnshaw - organist at Liverpool Cathedral. Come and hear the newly restored organ. Details Mrs Margaret Lee (01344) 771013

Sat 4 READING Christmas Market at Oddfellows Hall, next to the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Oxford Road. 10 - 2.30pm. First prize £70, various stalls and refreshments.

Sat 4 HOOK NORTON Craft fair, St Peter's Church, 10-5pm 40 different participating crafters. Entrance £1, Details from Jan Hughes (01608) 737900

Mon 6 BRACKNELL. Berkshire Archdeaconry Vocations Fellowship. 'Deacons' Led by Corinne Smith, Parish Deacon, Abingdon. St Michael's Easthampstead.

Fri 10 THAME 'Mission to the Hidden Poor' St Mary's Church/Church Pastoral Aid Society. Discovering God's agenda for churches serving council estates. A day of encouragement and *training for clergy and leaders. For details contact Sarah Brombley 01926 458451*

Sat 11 EARLEY (Reading) Autumn Fayre, 11-3pm at St Nicolas Church Hall, Sutcliffe Ave, Earley. Grand Draw takes place at 2.30pm

Mon 13 OXFORD Local Affirming Catholicism meeting. 6pm sung Eucharist in Magdalen College Chapel, 7pm supper, 8pm Speaker: The Very Revd Robert Jeffery, Sub-Dean of Christ Church, 'Can Anglicanism Hold Together?' Advance booking from Fr Michael Piret 01865 276027

BBC RADIO OXFORD 95.2
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Enjoy your Sunday breakfast Sundays 6 - 9am
Local religious views, church news, favourite hymns

Notices

Wallington Missionary Mart Give your unwanted items to help the mission of the Church. Wallington Missionary Mart and Auctions is a charity established 30 years ago which sells items for missionary charities; donors can choose which charity receives the proceeds. There are auctions at Wallington (Surrey) six times a year; things unsuitable for auction are sold through the Missionary Mart. For more information phone 0181 669 3495 (9am-5pm, Mon - Fri); if you have small items of value (jewellry, silver), contact 0181 647 8437). Tina Hirons goes regularly to Wallington and could take donations that will fit into a car: 01869 338568).

Accommodation wanted.
Single Christian woman with small well behaved, elderly dog seeks accommodation in the High Wycombe area. Tel: 01494 523 862

Church of the Holy Spirit
Open to visitors from 10am - 4pm from Monday to Friday. For information contact Church Office, 71a Camborne Ave, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7UE Tel 01296 394759

Restored Organ. St Michael's Church, Sandhurst has recently had its organ restored at a cost of £160,000. Look out for details of recitals in the What's On section.

Enthronement of Bishop Anthony as the 68th Bishop of Ely.
Ely Cathedral, 25 Nov 3pm. Seating is by ticket only, available from *The Dean's Secretary, The Cathedral Office, The College, Ely, Cambridgeshire CV7 4DP.* Applications should arrive before 31 Oct.

9 Oct - 18 Nov 'Full Circle'
Exhibitions of paintings by Ernesto Lozada-Uzuriaga
Mon & Tues 12 - 2pm
Wed 10 - 4pm
Sat 10 - 12am
Other times by appointment, at the Ark-T Centre and Gallery, Crowell Rd, Cowley, Oxford OX4 3LN. (Behind the multi-storey car park)
01865 773499/396778

Cornerstone
October Special at 'Cornerstone', Savile Way, Grove. Coconut and lime cake with tea or coffee £1.15

Sponsorship wanted!
Fliss Akehurst from St. Peter's Church Iver went on a sponsored walk for The Children's Society in September. She walked a total of 60 miles over five days, walking in the footsteps of Jesus in Israel. Even though she has already completed the walk, sponsorship can still be collected until the end of November. *For details contact fliss@vfree.com*

The Local Heritage Initiative
Are you looking for money for a community project including projects which involve work to church buildings? You could try the Local Heritage Initiative, a scheme run by the Countryside Agency (www.lhi.gov.uk) or the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment which administers funds from the Landfill Tax.

Apple Day Home Cottage Farm, Bangors Road South, Iver Heath. 11am-4pm. Apple tasting and identification, pick your own fruit, archery, live music, longest peel compitition, and children's activities.

Christ Church Cathedral
Sundays 8am Holy Communion, 10am Matins and Sermon; 11.15am Sung Eucharist; 6pm Evensong.
3 September: Service for Racial Justice Sunday 3pm
Weekdays 7.15am Matins; 7.35am Holy Communion; 6pm Evensong (Thursdays or Major Feast Days 5.35pm Said Evensong and 6pm Sung Eucharist).

the Door

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Telephone: 01865 208227
Fax: 01865 790470
Email: door@oxford.anglican.org

EDUCATION REVIEW 2000

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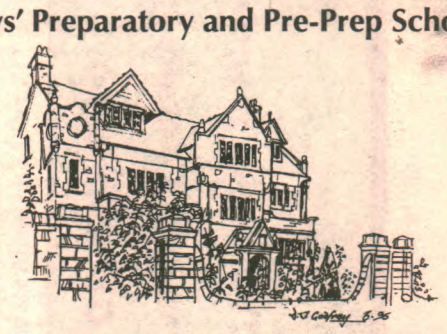

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(Tel: 01865 242561) (Fax: 01865 202945)
e-mail: admin@cccs.org.uk - www.cccs.org.uk
Or Stephen Darlington, Cathedral Organist
Christ Church Oxford OX1 1DP
(Tel & Fax 01865 276195)

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE TO GO

THE Concert Hall ◆READING◆

Classical Concert Season Autumn 2000

Thursday 14 September at 7.30pm
THE ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN'S
Conductor John Lubbock, Cello Robert Cohen. Programme includes Tchaikovsky: Rococo Variations; Beethoven; Symphony No 7 Op 92.

Thursday 28 September at 7.30pm
THE BORODIN QUARTET
Shostakovich: Quartets No 1 & 7; Beethoven; Quarter Op 59 No 1.

Friday 3 November at 7.30pm
MELVYN TAN/LONDON MOZART PLAYERS
Haydn: Divertimento in G for String Trio; Mozart: Piano Quartet in G Minor K478; Schubert: Trout Quintet.

Thursday 23 November at 7.30pm
MITSUKO UCHIDA
Schubert: Sonata in A monor D537 & Moments Musicaux; Debussy: Three Preludes; Chopin: Sonata No 2 in B flat minor Op 35

Sunday 26 November at 3.00pm
THE FLORESTAN TRIO
Piano Susan Tomes, Violin Anthony Marwood, Cello Richard Lester
Haydn: Piano Trio in E flat Hob XV 29; Fauré: Piano Trio in D minor Op 120; Schubert: Piano Trio in B flat D898

Reading Arts Box Office 0118 960 6060
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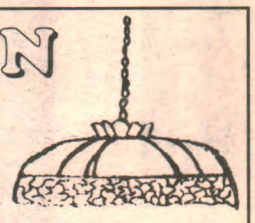

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